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THURSDAY DECEMBER 19TH, 2019

The GEM wishes all its readers, advertisers and contributors a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year - our next edition will be January 2, 2020.

Festive season goes into overdrive as the Vale gets ready for Christmas

THE Vale is gearing up for the festive season and towns and villages are now festooned with Christmas lights and decorations.

Events that build up the excitement come along thick and fast, and this was definitely the case in Llantwit Major recently, when staff at the Well Pharmacy entered fully into the spirit.

Local photographer Andy Wicks was passing, and took this image of the smiling elves, all happy to bring a litle Christmas cheer to customers.

Tide with the Tories as Cairns keeps Vale seat

ON a night when the exit polls were close to spot on, Alun Cairns was returned as MP for the Vale of Glamorgan with an increased majority.

On a grim night for Labour, the tide was clearly running for the Conservatives, who have now made real inroads in Wales.

It was a bitter blow for Labour, who had made the Vale a target seat, with Jeremy Corbyn visiting Barry on the final weekend before the election.

Mr Cairns was thought to be vulnerable after he resigned as Secretary of State for Wales, over the issue of how much (and when) he knew about the role of his former aide, Ross England, in the collapse of a rape trial

When the dust settled, Labour's Belinda Loveluck-Edwards had polled 23,743 votes – almost the same as her predecessor Camilla Beavan in 2017, who polled 23,311.

The turnout was similar in both elections.

Mr Cairns, increased his vote, and his majority, up from 25,501 in 2017, to 27,305.

The 'Unite to Remain' alliance had led to both Plaid Cymru and the Lib-Dems standing down to give Anthony Slaughter of the Greens a clear run. It meant that he increased the Green vote from 419 to 3,251, but was still a distant third.

The fourth candidate, Laurence Williams of Gwlad Gwlad, polled 508.

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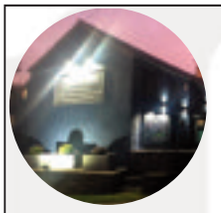
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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address, contact telephone number. We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

The silent majority has spoken

FINALLY, the silent majority has been heard.

After years of listening to political has beens like Tony Blair, John Major and Lord Heseltine, and years of watching interviews outside Parliament, where the shouting and bawling and waving of Remainer placards overwhelmed any sensible debate, those who voted to leave the EU stopped it all with one stroke of the pen

It still may not work out well in the future negotiations with the EU, although they have more to lose.

However, there is one winner in all this - democracy.

Democracy has poked its head over the parapet and is grinning at those politicians who tried to bury it.

Philip Sanders
Barry.

Candidate fought with integrity

IN the wake of last week's General Election, I would like to congratulate Belinda Loveluck-Edwards, the Labour candidate.

She may not have been elected as the Vale's MP but she did the Vale proud in the way she conducted her campaign.

Belinda is a woman of integrity who fought a consistently positive campaign.

She did not launch personal attacks or smear campaigns.

Instead she stood proudly for Labour's policies and was truly impressive in the strong and honest personal qualities she brought to the campaign trail.

Belinda's 'Real voice for the Vale' has not been silenced. She may have narrowly lost this battle but the fight will go on.

Sue White, Barry

Try dry January and reset your relationship with alcohol

IT can be difficult to say no to a drink, especially during the festive season.

In fact, our new research shows that 78 per cent of Brits drink more than they want or intend to. Over one in five (23 per cent) feel pressured to drink more than they want to by people they know: most often friends and colleagues.

These findings show that lots of us are drinking in ways that we don't feel comfortable with, but it can be tricky to know how to make a change.

Signing up for Dry January is a brilliant place to start.

Being alcohol-free for 31 days shows us we don't need alcohol to have fun, to relax, or socialise. Strong evidence tells us that Dry January helps people – even heavy drinkers – to drink more healthily all year round.

People who take on Dry January get a whole host of benefits, from losing weight to more money in their pockets and healthier insides.

So if you're up for resetting your relationship with alchohol and improving your health, sign up for Dry January at dryjanuary.org.uk or download the free app for Dry January and beyond, Try Dry.

People who sign-up are twice as likely to go the whole month without drinking compared who those who try to do it alone.

Dr Richard Piper
Alcohol Change UK.

Thanks from Friends and Neighbours

I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of Friends and Neighbours in Barry to thank all those who have supported this group.

The group has grown immensely this year with some 80 members including volunteers, and we now have a waiting list due to its popularity.

Many lonely and isolated people have joined and made many new acquaintances, and have met up with old friends.

The group has had an amazing 2019 including trips to Hay on Wye, Ledbury, Cadburys Garden Centre, a local lunch at Cwm Talwg, a visit to the panto Beauty and Beast and to the Wales Millennium Centre to see Joseph and Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat.

With sponsorship from Morrisons, Asda, Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Barry Rotary, 60 plus members enjoyed a Christmas lunch at Barry Masonic Hall, with entertainment from Mark Shepherd and a present from Santa.

Thanks go this year to Community Matters at Waitrose, and to Jane Hutt AM and Alun Cairns MP for their long and outstanding support over the years, and to The GEM for its support in printing our news. Thanks must also go to Barry Town Council and the Vale Council.

Finally I would like to thank my wonderful volunteers Phyl, Marlene, Kat, Alison, Helen, Mary, Sue, Joyce, Linda, Sandra and Susan for all their help.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2020

Gay Fifield
Friends and Neighbours
Barry

Black bags are incinerated

READING past letters in The GEM, many people believe (as I did) that black bags go to landfill.

When I raised my concerns on this to the council official accompanying the collection vehicle, I was informed that black bags are sent for incineration.

This was confirmed by phone by the council waste management department.

John Hall,
Llantwit Major.

GEM NOTE: *A Vale Council spokesperson said: "Non-recyclable black bag waste is sent to an energy recovery facility in Cardiff where it is used as a fuel to produce electricity for the National Grid."*

'Support your local library'

A town without a library is like a city without a cathedral.

Enjoy them while you can.

Once gone they are almost impossible to get back, and nothing is ever the same again.

Cowbridge Library offers talking books and videos at modest cost - but the use of computers is free, just like the loan of books.

A bus pass is also free, but you need to be an OAP to qualify, whereas the youngest child can own a library card.

The staff greet you with a smile and are unfailingly courteous and helpful

The library, the repository of knowledge, is the epitome of British culture and needs to be cherished and used.

Children under four attend for story time, but all are welcome at any time. It is reached off the High Street through a passageway, behind Old Hall, and worth a visit if only to admire the 'book' Christmas tree - a true work of art.

ATG Owens,
Cowbridge.

Is gambling an evil in the eyes of the church?

I see yet another church (St David's in Laleston) taking money from the National Lottery for refurbishments (The GEM, December 12, Bridgend edition).

The heads of the churches are the same people who call gambling an evil in our society.

Practice what you preach is my motto.

R Kennedy,
Kenfig Hill

Carers' centre is a 'sanctuary of peace and laughter

I'M a carer for my 36-year-old son who lives with me in Ogmore-by-Sea.

He has epilepsy and learning difficulties.

A year ago my doctor suggested I contacted Bridgend Carers' Centre.

It was one of the best things I did. They offer such a wide range of activities and social occasions.

I've made some wonderful new friends and every one of the staff is magnificent.

It's a little sanctuary of peace and laughter.

Linda Jones
Ogmore-by-Sea.

Thanks to good Samaritans

I would like to offer my grateful thanks to Laura (I don't know her surname) for her much-appreciated help when I fell on the 93 bus recently.

I would also like to thank the others on the bus who provided tissues and plasters which were very much needed. So much kindness was overwhelming.

Margaret Holloman

Barry

A rail line to Cowbridge would be too expensive

I read Mr Langford's letter (The GEM, December 12) with some interest, and whilst I applaud the sentiment, the suggestion that the 'Barry to Cowbridge' line could be revived is not practicable for two major reasons.

Firstly, as far as I'm aware there never was a Barry to Cowbridge line. There was an Aberthaw to Llantrisant line that passed through Cowbridge, but that had no connection to the line from Barry other than shanks' pony.

The Aberthaw to Llantrisant line started at Aberthaw Low Level, and the Barry to Bridgend line went through Aberthaw High Level.

Given the considerable difference in elevation between the two, it was not feasible to physically connect the two lines, and that would still be the issue today.

At the Aberthaw end the route of the Cowbridge line runs straight through the cement works, and then crosses the new road at Old Mill where the bridge has been demolished. The only way to connect Barry to Cowbridge seamlessly by rail would be to build a completely new section to connect the two routes.

The Ordsall Chord, a similar 300 metre long scheme connecting two lines in Manchester, recently cost £85 million!

Secondly, even though sections of the route are still discernible on Google Earth today, the land is no longer in public ownership and most of the stations, including Cowbridge, have since been developed for other uses.

So the route would be of little or no use as a link between Barry and Cowbridge without huge expenditure on track and infrastructure.

I agree that more stations along the route between Barry and Bridgend would be of significant value to the area, but alas that is also no longer a feasible option.

The Gileston halt (which was not on the Aberthaw to Cowbridge route) is now part of someone's garden. Disused station sites have been taken over for other purposes along the entire route, and the cost of reacquiring suitable sites would probably be prohibitive. Finally, could I just add a note of sympathy for the much maligned Dr Beeching?

Although he was the author of the report recommending the rail closures, in reality he was only dancing to Ernest Marples' tune. The latter, as Minister of Transport, promoted the rise of car ownership as a personal freedom to choose how to travel, meaning that a better road system was needed, and so along came motorways.

John Banks,
Rhoose.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

The high tides listed in this week's Gem are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tides times will vary. For instance, in Barry the high point will be 20-25 minutes later.

UNTIL DECEMBER 26

Date	Time	Height (metres)
19/12/2019	11.46	8.6
19/12/201		
20/12/2019	00.23	8.4
20/12/2019	12.55	8.5
21/12/2019	01.36	8.4
21/12/2019	13.59	8.6
22/12/2019	02.45	8.7
22/12/2019	15.13	8.8
23/12/2019	03.48	8.9
23/12/2019	16.16	9.1
24/12/2019	04.44	9.4
24/12/2019	17.11	9.6
25/12/2019	05.35	9.7
25/12/2019	17.58	9.8
26/12/2019	06.22	9.9
26/12/2019	18.43	9.8

While the Gem makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Published by: Glamorgan GEM Ltd., Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge. CF71 7EL. Printed by TMP Birmingham.

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Tributes to man killed in town centre stabbing

ABOVE: Jordan Davies.
Photo supplied by South Wales POlice.

TRIBUTES have been paid to a young man who died after being stabbed in Barry town centre on Monday afternoon.

Jordan Davies, aged 23, died on Holton Road at around 4pm following the fatal assault.

Officers launched a murder investigation and quickly arrested a 24-year-old man, also from Barry, on suspicion of murder.

Jordan Brown, who was known to the victim, was later charged with murder and set to appear at Cardiff Magistrates' Court on Wednesday morning.

The outcome of the court case was not known at the time of going to press.

Mr Davies' devastated family said: "Jordan was a loving son, brother and father of two young children.

"He was also a keen football player."

They added: "Jordan will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

"We ask that our privacy is now respected during what is an extremely difficult time."

DCI Mark O'Shea, senior investigating officer, said: "This was a tragic incident which has cost a young man his life, and has devastated families.

"The attack happened in a busy town centre, and I would like to thank those members of the community who came to Jordan's aid and did what they could to help him.

"While many tried to assist, we know that the incident was captured on camera, and I would appeal to anyone with any mobile phone or dash-cam footage not to share it publicly and instead pass it on to the police so that we can fully investigate and ensure justice for the young victim.

"The public have been really forthcoming with information, which proved key in ensuring a suspect was apprehended quickly. We're still, however, appealing for anyone who has any information – no matter insignificant it may seem – to come forward."

DCI O'Shea also thanked those who supported officers who were at the scene during and after the incident.

He added: "This was an extremely distressing incident for all who were present, including local retailers and shoppers and our officers who remained at the scene. I'm extremely grateful for the patience and kindness shown by generous local residents."

A major incident room has been set up and detectives are continuing to appeal to anyone with information to come forward.

Information and digital footage can be submitted online via a public portal: https://mipp.police.uk/operation/62SWP19A99-PO1

Anyone with information should call South Wales Police on 101, quoting occurrence 1900461821 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Father Christmas tour raises thousands for charities

FATHER Christmas has been touring around Cowbridge and the surrounding villages over the last few weeks spreading festive cheer and raising money for three charities.

The jolly man in red has been joined on his outings by members of Cowbridge Rotary Club who have been armed with collection buckets.

Generous residents who caught a glimpse of Father Christmas donated an impressive £3,000.

The cash will be shared between the Alzheimer's Society, Hafal and The Amelia Trust Farm.

A Rotary spokesman said: "It was a pleasure for santa to be able to meet so many youngsters, and some not so young, to hear how good they have been over the past twelve months and to record what they really want for Christmas.

"Members of Cowbridge Rotary count themselves fortunate to have had the chance to help santa again this year and are particularly grateful for the very generous contributions that many people made."

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Meeting on Y Bont Faen Primary was a 'farce' says chair of governors in letter to GEM

AFTER attending a Vale Council scrutiny committee meeting to consider the proposal to close Y Bont Faen Primary School and to create an all through school for pupils aged 3 – 19 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, I felt quite disheartened and disillusioned by the whole process.

The majority of the meeting was a sales pitch by the Vale Council's 21st Century Schools team. They gave a one-sided presentation of the alleged benefits of creating an all through school.

Little, if anything, was mentioned about any negative aspects of the proposal or other alternative sites. A local headteacher from the only all through school in the Vale was allowed unlimited time to promote his school.

Those who wished to speak at the meeting had to register before hand. The governors of Y Bont Faen adhered to the guidelines which stated no more than five speakers would be allowed to speak, although several more had wanted to do so. It transpired however, that the comprehensive school had six speakers and the time allowed for each speaker was supposed to be two minutes each, which wasn't enforced for all speakers.

There was no opportunity to challenge some of the unsubstantiated claims being made. Nor did the 21st Century Schools team produce or refer to any empirical evidence, which supported their claims.

A counter proposal made by and supported by all three Cowbridge councillors, to have a stand-alone primary school on the Cowbridge Comprehensive site, was voted down five votes to four by councillors from outside of the Cowbridge area.

I, therefore, urge all parents, grandparents and members of the community who want Y Bont Faen Primary School to remain as a stand-alone primary school in Cowbridge to respond to the Consultation Proposal before the 10th January 2020 at:

https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/living/schools/Consultations/Amalgamating-Y-Bont-Faen-Primary-School-and-Cowbridge-Comprehensive-School.aspx

Terry Williams
Chair of Governors, Y Bont Faen Primary School

A Vale Council spokesperson responded to Mr Williams' letter: "The council set out its proposal to invest £7 million in a new 420-pupil school on the site of Cowbridge Comprehensive at the Scrutiny Committee meeting, a move that would double the number of English-medium primary places available.

"The proposed Cowbridge all-through school would then cater for pupils aged three to 19 with automatic transition from primary to secondary phases, removing the need to apply.

"The scrutiny meeting agenda is publicly available and anyone wishing to speak on a topic can register to do so beforehand. The chairman, with no objections from the other members of the committee, allowed all governors from both schools to speak, five were from Y Bont Faen and five from Cowbridge Comprehensive School. The sixth speaker for Cowbridge Comprehensive was the headteacher, who was allowed to speak based on legal advice which indicated there was no reason why she should be prevented from doing so.

"As there were multiple registered speakers, the chairman allowed two minutes per speaker, though there was some slight leeway on this to allow a person to finish a sentence. Protocols do not allow public speakers to come back and challenge the claims made by others, but the chairman did allow the committee members an opportunity to ask all speakers points of clarification. The headteacher of Ysgol Bro Morgannwg was invited to attend as a witness and not a registered public speaker in line with agreed protocols.

"There are two Cowbridge councillors on the committee, Cllr Hunter Jarvie and Cllr Andrew Parker. Cllr Cox, who spoke against the report proposal, is not a member of the committee and so was not entitled to vote.

"It is important to note that no firm decisions have been made on this proposal following the meeting. It offered an opportunity for those for and against the proposal to share their views, all of which will be fully considered as part of the consultation process. It is also still possible for any interested party to express their opinion on the matter by completing a form on the Council website. The consultation period closes on January 10 after which a report will be published reflecting the opinions expressed. From there, the Council's Cabinet will decide whether to proceed with next stage of the consultation process."

Cowbridge councillors respond to 'misleading quotes' from Regional AM

THE three ward members for Cowbridge, Cllrs Geoff Cox, Hunter Jarvie, and Andrew Parker, have issued a strong response to criticisms made by Regional AM and Rhoose councillor Andrew RT Davies, in relation to plans for the future of Y Bont Faen Primary School.

Their letter to The GEM is as follows:

Your article in last week's GEM included misleading quotes from Cllr Andrew RT Davies of Rhoose ward.

The proposals for a new school for Y Bont Faen Primary are currently out for consultation. The Cabinet report authorising that consultation contains the objections from the three Cowbridge ward members that building and moving the new school to a site adjacent to Cowbridge Comprehensive School should NOT result in Y Bont Faen School being incorporated into the Comprehensive School, but on the contrary should maintain its separate identity.

At a recent Vale Council scrutiny meeting, at which Cllr Davies was present, all theee of us spoke against the suggestion that this should happen, and indeed Cllr Jarvie proposed a motion to reject the merger proposal.

That proposal was lost by one vote – because Cllr Davies left the meeting early when his vote could have secured the passing of the motion!

We do not need lessons in how to represent the views of our constituents from a councillor who represents another ward and who was only elected less than a year ago.

Geoff Cox
Hunter Jarvie
Andrew Parker
Members for Cowbridge ward
Vale Council

Secret chats, lies and codewords: How Gavin & Stacey cast kept show's return under-wraps

A MILITARY style operation was launched by the cast of Gavin & Stacey to make sure nobody found out details of the upcoming Christmas special.

Some went to great lengths to ensure the big reunion project was kept under-wraps, with secret group chats set up and a few fibs told.

Ruth Jones, who writes and stars in the show, even used her niece - who also didn't know a thing about the festive instalment - as a decoy on a reconnaissance trip to Barry.

She revealed she took the nine-year-old to the seaside resort to use as a cover story in case people spotted her and started getting suspicious.

Jones was actually in Barry to find out if the owner of the house used by Gwen in the show would be willing to let the cameras back in once again.

She admitted she felt "ashamed" about using her niece, but insisted it was an essential move.

The former Porthcawl Comprehensive student said: "When I have been back to Barry, sometimes there are people who are taking photos of the outside of the house and, if they see me, they sometimes want to take photos.

"If they see me on my own, it might start suspicions going. So I took her and had some photos taken outside so I could just say I am showing my niece."

And that's not all. Jones then 'blatantly lied' to Matt Lucas on BBC Radio 2 about the show returning - some 24 hours before the reunion was announced.

She explained: "I went onto the Radio 2 breakfast show the day before it was announced and I was going on to publicise my book, so I knew that the following day we were going to be announcing it, and I was sat there with Matt Lucas who was taking the show that day.

"And he said to me the question that I get asked all the time - 'Is there going to be more Gavin & Stacey?', and I went, 'Oh it's really difficult because James is in America."

"He said 'yeah, but is there going to be more?' And I said 'Oh it is so lovely that people love the show so much'."

Jones added: "It was awful. I was like a politician on Politics Live not answering the question. The next day I had to email Matt and say 'I am so sorry for blatantly lying to you."

A codename for the Christmas special was created and a group chat for the cast was set up - both inspired by a misunderstanding between Rob Brydon, who plays uncle Bryn, and Alison Steadman, who plays Gavin's mum Pam.

Brydon explained: "We were at the BAFTAs, and I was walking to my seat and I saw Alison and I said 'hello' and she said 'I am nervous about G&S.

"And I thought Gilbert and Sullivan. I thought she was there nominated for a performance in a thing about Gilbert and Sullivan. And I might have even said to her, 'but you were fantastic in it."

He added: "And then my wife Claire and I went and sat down and I turned around and went 'Ohhh!'

Brydon's mistake quickly caught on with other members of the cast.

Jones told a group of journalists at the christmas special's official press launch in London: "We did set up a WhatsApp group and we called it Gilbert and Sullivan."

Steadman added: "On my email I was so scared in case anyone saw it. So I called it Gilbert and Sullivan. I said I had been asked to do Gilbert and Sullivan again."

Former EastEnders actor Larry Lamb, who plays Steadman's on-screen husband Mick, said: "The hard bit is not telling anyone about it. So I had about three months of that, not only just the usual 'I don't know', but actually lying now."

Gavin & Stacey airs on Christmas Day at 8.30pm on BBC1.

By Sam Hall

ABOVE: A still from the upcoming Christmas special showing the characters getting into the festive spirit.

Mathew Horne, who plays Gavin, with James Corden, also known as Smithy.

ABOVE: Ruth Jones' character Nessa and Uncle Bryn, played by Rob Brydon, belting out a tune or two in the Christmas special.

All photos credited to the BBC

ABOVE: Larry Lamb, who plays Mick in the sitcom, with Alison Steadman, who plays his on-screen wife Pam.

ABOVE: Joanna Page (Stacey) and Mathew Horne.

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Villagers get into the festive mood at Llancarfan

AN enjoyable evening of carol singing and celebration attended the start of the Christmas festivities at the village of Llancarfan on December 8.

A good number of villagers braved the weather at the lighting of the Llancarfan Christmas tree, an event opened by our guest of honour Chloe Broad, the winner of Llancarfan Primary School's painting competition, who flicked the switch on the fabulous lights of the Christmas tree that lit up the evening sky.

The singing was led by Sarah, Hayley and Jo with hearty renditions of all our favourite Christmas tunes that rang throughout the village

An event spokesman said: "We would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening: Maxy, Martyn H, Martin W, Paul and John for putting up the tree. To Rhi and Jim at the Fox & Hounds for the delicious mulled wine and homemade mince pies that kept us all warm. To the Osborne Family, who are providing the power to the lights again this year and last but certainly not least, to the Thomas family for the all-important equipment to help erect the magnificent tree."

Trio win national gong for coding

THREE Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg pupils have won a national prize for their coding skills.

The year 9 pupils entered a competition earlier this year which required them to code their own interactive game app for mobile phones.

The competition was held by the DVLA and the team reached the final. Gwennan Thomas, Seren Morris and Mari Jeffery were awarded the first prize and £2,000 towards ICT in the school.

The team of three girls depended on the public vote on Tuesday as the lines opened for two hours only.

The team has created an interactive game app for mobile phones about Hinnie, a famous scientist and her team, who have been kidnapped.

They spent many hours working as a team, often using video links and conferencing software to create this program.

They showed excellent programming and design skills, teamwork and dedication and have created an innovative truly mobile game that gets pupils thinking and moving indoors and out.

Dilwyn Owen, ICT teacher at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg said: "We are very proud of their achievement and it is fantastic to see coding skills taught in the lesson being applied to create a very original app."

Mr Owen runs the school's coding club.

Vale residents to fork out £5m on unwanted gifts

IT'S the season of goodwill and giving - but new research shows residents in the Vale of Glamorgan will waste up to £4.9m on Christmas gifts they suspect their loved ones won't event like.

The shocking statistics came to light as part of research recently carried out by Macmillan Cancer Support.

As part of the work, which revealed Vale residents would be forking out nearly £5m, British adults were asked to estimate how much they spent on Christmas gifts that people might not like.

The poll found many were worried that they'd appear 'stingy' if they didn't splash the cash with 26 per cent of participants admitting they often receive gifts that they will never use.

Almost a quarter of those surveyed admitted they'd prefer to have a donation made to their favourite charity rather than receive a gift.

Rebecca Parke, Regional Fundraising Manager, said: "People work very hard for their money, so no one wants to see it going to waste. It's heart-warming the research shows many people would prefer to have a donation made to charity than receive a gift. Christmas can be a particularly difficult time of year for people living with cancer and their loved ones, and every donation Macmillan Cancer Support receives means we can continue to be there to support the three million people currently affected by cancer in the UK, enabling them to live life as fully as they can. "If you gave one donation of around £30, this could pay for one Macmillan nurse for an hour, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support."

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Community news from Llangan and Treoes with Nancy Davidge

Llangan School

ON Monday, December 16, the children in reception year-1 and year-2 visited St Fagan's Museum for the day to take part in a workshop.

Today (Thursday) Friends of Llangan Primary have organised a visit from Santa in the morning, followed by a Christmas dinner and Christmas activities and stories.

The school breaks up on Friday, December 20.

Christmas morning service

A Service will take place at St Mary Hill Church at 11.15am on Christmas morning.

A warm welcome is offered to all.

Young at Heart Club

MEMBERS of the Treoes-based Young at Heart Club visited a Bridgend hotel for their Christmas lunch last week.

Meetings of the club will resume in the first week in January.

A Christmas message

To all the readers of my itsy bits news, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Stay-at-home eye test scheme launched

LEFT: Representatives from Specsavers and the Royal Voluntary Service

A NEW partnership is launching in Cowbridge this week with the aim of helping vulnerable people access free NHS-funded eye tests in the comfort of their own home or care home.

Specsavers and Royal Voluntary Service have come together ahead of the festive season to put the spotlight on keeping people safe in their own home and promoting their services to those most in need.

Alison Warren, domiciliary joint venture partner for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan, said: 'Our partnership with Royal Voluntary Service's volunteers is an exciting, positive step we can take to prevent avoidable accidents in the home this Christmas time.

'Good vision is essential as it can help lower the risk of someone having a fall. Research tells us that falls happen in the home more than anywhere else, many of which could be prevented with the correct glasses. We don't believe that the inability to reach a high street optician should be a barrier to good eye health. That's why Specsavers has a home visit service and we want to spread the word as far as possible to those vulnerable individuals who have not had a sight test recently to take advantage of our expertise.'

In 2018, the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) reported in one year alone, around 220,160 emergency hospital admissions related to falls among individuals aged 65 and over in the UK, with around 146,665 (66.6%) of these aged 80 and over.

Sue Apps, Project Co-ordinator for Royal Voluntary Service said: 'This partnership is very important for us because it supports older people in their own homes and helps to prevent falls. We have been busy working behind the scenes to educate all our volunteers across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan about Specsavers' home visits service in recent weeks. Our volunteers are now out in their own communities, advising individuals about the benefits the Specsavers' Home Visits service can offer - whether the person they care for is in their own home or a care home.'

Supporting the campaign is Wayne Sleep, ambassador for Royal Voluntary Service.

He said: 'I believe that people should be able to keep their independence for as long as possible, and this partnership between Royal Voluntary Service and Specsavers helps to do just that.

'We can take good eyesight for granted as a way to keep tuned into the world around us, and I'm delighted that the fantastic work carried out by the Royal Voluntary Service now includes raising awareness of this service for people who would not otherwise be able to access high street eye care.'

All Specsavers' visiting opticians are fully qualified, experienced and DBS checked and the free NHS-funded home eye tests are carried out with the same care and attention as in a Specsavers store

Llantwit school's welcome for the community at Christmas

WITH the Christmas season again once upon us, pupils at Llantwit Major School welcomed in the period with a Christmas Carol Concert at St Illtud's Church, and by inviting senior citizens to a tea party.

The school produced a heart-warming number of musical pieces; from the school choir, to soloists, pianists and many more talented performances.

The concert truly exhibited the community Christmas spirit that Llantwit Major prides itself on.

Mrs Greville, the headteacher of Llantwit Major School, said: "Year after year the school produces such wonderful items for this fantastic community event. It was a privilege to watch our students perform in such a wonderful event that really epitomises what Christmas is truly about.

"As a community school, we consider Christmas a time for sharing and caring and, on Friday, December 6, pupils have again shown their appreciation for everything that the senior citizens have done for the town.

"This was the school's 10th 'senior citizens tea party', and local people came to enjoy musical entertainment from the school choir, feast on food made by the catering students and to receive homemade hampers full of festive treats from each form class.

"Llantwit Major pupils have again relished the opportunities to spread the festive Christmas cheer and are looking forward to celebrating with their community in 2020."

KS

Good news for Waverley fans

THE fundraising appeal to save paddle steamer Waverley has reached its £2.3 million target just seven months after it was announced that the famous steamship would not operate in 2019.

The Boiler Refit Appeal has attracted donations from over 8,000 individuals with support from the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society, several trusts and £1 million from the Scottish Government. Arnold Clark and the Swire Charitable Trust have both just confirmed their support taking the appeal to its target.

Eddie Hawthorne, group managing director for Arnold Clark, said: "I'm delighted that we're able to contribute £50,000 towards the restoration of the Waverley. Arnold Clark understands how significant the ship and its heritage is to Glasgow and we were keen to help towards the £2.3m fundraising target."

Waverley's new boilers are currently being built by Cochran's Ltd in Annan and are due to be completed in February. The work required on the ship will involve the removal of the iconic twin funnels to allow access to the boiler room.

Waverley excursions general manager, Paul Semple, said: "Thanks to the fantastic generosity of so many people and organisations we are now able to push 'full ahead' with Waverley's boiler refit which will be the most substantial refit since her rebuild was completed back in 2003. I would like to thank everyone who has donated to the appeal and supported our efforts to save the last seagoing paddle steamer in the world."

Waverley is owned by a registered charity and operated on a not-for-profit basis. The recent appeal for cash has been the most successful in the ship's preservation career but ongoing support will be required given the annual cost of dry docking and refit.

Young musicians entertain crowd

LEFT: The recorder trio playing 'We Three Kings'.

LITTLESTRINGS Music School finished the year off in style with a Christmas concert in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

The audience was treated to a selection of solos, duets, trios and ensemble works from carols right through to Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker and Corelli's Christmas Pastorale.

Two of the youngest Colourstring pupils, Poppy Walters-Bresner (six) and Emily Bowen (seven) performed alongside Zoe Champion (14) and Max Hall (16).

Christmas was celebrated by violinists, violist, pianists, and a trio of recorders playing 'We three Kings'.

It was an utter delight to hear Nico Contaxaki (seven) accompany the audience singing The First Noel and Daniel Strachan (eight) accompany violinist Max Hall playing 'Ding Dong Merrily on High' for the very first time with such assurance and musicality.

The '12 Days of Christmas' was sung heartily by the audience with Toben Durrent leading them. To end the solos Max Hall, who was the winner of the 16-18 category in the Music in the Vale Competition this year, played Elgar's 'Chanson du Matin'.

The evening was rounded off with everyone playing 'A Perpetual Motion Christmas'.

Popular karate club expanding into Llantwit

ABOVE: Shihan Roger Nevens, Sensei Justin Gwilliam and Sensi Will James

A KARATE club based in Cowbridge has proved to be such a big hit that it is now setting up in nearby Llantwit Major.

Shihan Roger Nevens, Sensei Justin Gwilliam and Sensi Will James will be launching their new venture on January 9 in Llantwit Major Comprehensive School's sports hall.

Cowbridge Karate Jutsu Kai has been up and running since 1985 and the trio decided to expand further as it had been 'hugely popular.'

The Llantwit Club will meet on Thursday nights from 6pm until 7pm with the first session on January 9 being free and a chance for potential members to get to know the instructors.

People can just turn up to the club on the evening.

For more information email LMJustsukai@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/LMJJK.

Christmas concert in St Athan

RAF St Athan Voluntary Band will be presenting their traditional Christmas concert at St Tathan Church on Friday, December 20.

As well as carols and festive music from the band, there'll be seasonal readings from Sian Pickett and will also feature Lucie Jane Jones (soprano).

Entry is free – there will be a collection in aid of the Huggard Centre (supporting Cardiff's homeless).

The concert starts at 7:30pm (doors open 7pm)

This will be followed by a Christmas quiz next door in the Three Horseshoes from 9pm, again with all proceeds going towards the Huggard Centre.

Santa and his elves come to town

Father Christmas made an early visit to St Cadoc's Church, Llancarfan with two of his elves to receive letters from local children.

A coffee morning for Jo

THE Jo Watham coffee morning was recently held in Llantwit Major.

Roz Couzens told The GEM: "After eight years we still have a very loyal band of friends who are alway so generous at this very expensive time of year.

"Ena and George of Illtud 216 kindly gave their support in letting us use their beautiful festive restaurant and we are very grateful to their donation of a lunch voucher.

"The usual cheque will be delivered to Marie Curie, Penarth."

Llantwit Major Probus Club's festive meeting

THE Llantwit Major Probus Club meeting for December was held in Illtud's 216.

The president opened the meeting at 11am welcoming members and he had been reminded by his grand-daughter we only had 14 sleeps until Christmas.

Members were then asked to observe a moment's silence in memory of our past president in 2015-16, Colin Jenkins, who had sadly passed away in November

We were then treated to an hour of entertainment covering the 12 days of Christmas starting with a video of Castle Howard decorated for the season, with a choir singing The 12 days of Christmas.

Eric Sparks, David Jenking and Keith Young then took on various roles including a GEM reporter interviewing Father Christmas, and a school inspector having a chat with a Yorkshire schoolboy who put him wise on how his father viewed Christmas.

Eric read letters from a young lady Emily to her boyfriend Edward. Shewrote of her delight on receiving his gift of a Partridge on the first day of Christmas but it ended with a letter from her solicitor after the 12th day, requesting he removed the various livestock she had accumulated during the period.

Philip then ended with a video of the Dyffryn Gardens Christmas trail – with choral sound track of The 12 days of Christmas.

Members gave our own entertainers a warm round of applause for what the president described at the outset as an hour of entertaining, educational, edifying rubbish.

The raffle was won by Hilary Collins, members then retired for drinks and a three-course Christmas Lunch.

The president and committee send Best Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy,Healthy New Year to all members.

The speaker for January is Cled Lewis, who will be sharing with us pictures of his recent holiday in Georgia, the former Soviet republic.

MM

Rachael's charity elf day

LEFT: Katie Matthews and Rachel Slee

VALE of Glamorgan Council worker Rachael Slee brought a little of the north pole to Barry recently to raise money for a cause close to her heart.

The Facilities Manager organised a series of events for National Elf Day at the Civic Offices, an initiative that supports those affected by dementia. Council staff dressed up as elves, decorated their desks, played games, sold cakes, competed in an auction and also held a raffle, with all proceeds going to the Alzheimer's Society.

But there was a more serious side. Rachael lost her grandmother to dementia and it was that experience of the disease that prompted her to take steps to fight it.

Rachael said: "I was very close to my Grandma, being the eldest of the grandchildren, and watching Alzheimer's take away her personality, her mobility and her mental and physical health was absolutely heart-breaking. No-one should suffer like that and no-one should have to see a loved one slowly dying in front of them.

"I have fond memories of spending weekends with her in my childhood and making cakes but we also watched a lot of detective programmes and both had a passion for reading and would swap crime books. I blame her for the fact that I'm addicted to cake!

"With the support of various colleagues who have also been affected by either losing someone to Alzheimer's or are currently watching their loved ones living with the disease, the idea for Elf Day just snowballed."

This isn't Rachael's first foray into fundraising as in previous years she has supported causes such as Cancer Research UK, The Wallich, NSPCC and also the British Liver Trust following the passing of a colleague.

"For some years now I haven't sent Christmas cards as I felt the money I spend on cards and postage could be put to better use," added Rachael.

"Christmas is traditionally a time of giving so what better time to think of a charity to donate that money to instead? I choose a different charity every year and use the power of social media to wish my family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

"I feel overwhelmed with the support that I have received in organising Elf Day. Katie Matthews has been amazing, approaching different people and agencies to get some donations for the silent auction and raffle. Carole Tyley and Symon Dovey have been equally fantastic, while Lynne Clarke has thrown herself into everything elf at the Contact Centre and is making a massive impact.

"Lots of colleagues have baked cakes, donated raffle prizes and bought tickets and my management team have also been so supportive from Lorna Cross, Ben Winstanley, Carys Lord and not to forget Managing Director Rob Thomas, Council Leader Neil Moore and Deputy Leader Lis Burnett."

Happy Christmas harmony for U3A group

COWBRIDGE Town Hall was filled almost to capacity recently for the last meeting of the year for Cowbridge U3A.

For an hour, members and visitors welcomed the Porthcawl Ukulele Bandits to help them escape from the gloomy winter weather.

This was the group's third visit – by popular request.

A U3A spokesman said: "It was therefore appropriate that they began their tour of popular music of the last 50 years with the number 'On the Road Again' which featured in the film Honeysuckle Rose and gained a Grammy award for Willy Nelson.

"We then heard numbers from many other popular favourites – Elvis Presley ('Return to Sender'), the Beatles ('When I'm 64'), the Searchers ('Every Time You Walk in the Room') and we were also entertained with several Christmas songs.

"The nostalgic session ended with much enthusiastic audience participation in the Neil Diamond number 'Sweet Caroline'.

"We were introduced to an unusual musical instrument – the Melodicon, which added a novel woodwind sound to the ukuleles. The four player/vocalists clearly enjoyed themselves as much as the audience (which included some visitors from other ukulele bands), and everyone joined together at the end to enjoy mulled wine, mince pies and plenty of chat and to look forward to a happy and harmonious Christmas."

The group's next meeting will be on January 8 from 2pm in the town hall with a talk from Catrin Hall about the ambulance service.

Charity coffee in Cowbridge

'Barnardo's Cowbridge Group recently held a successful coffee morning to raise funds. It raised £1,400 for Barnardo's Cymru, who provide services working with vulnerable children, young people and families . **(Photo by Mike Wilcock)**

Llantwit Major St John Ambulance group celebrates after a busy year

The Llantwit Major St John Ambulance group recently held their Christmas celebration.

Local photographer Andy Wicks (Tel 07855 374478) dropped in to take this image.

Author's new book features his home town of Llantwit

A Llantwit Major man has written his first book, set in his home town and featuring a fictional foray into Europe by his local football club.

Ben Dudley was brought up in Llantwit and his parents still live in the town, although Ben now lives in Amsterdam.

Ben told The GEM: "It's called *That's Not Llandudno*, and tells the story of our local football team (Llantwit Major AFC) going on a historic run in the Europa League, after accidentally being entered in place of Llandudno FC.

"My home town will always have a huge place in my heart, and I was delighted to be able to write what I believe is the very first fiction novel to be based in the town, certainly the first to feature our football team!

"It's a comedy story, suited for teenagers and up, available to buy from *thatsnotllandudno.com* (or in person from my parents' home in Wine Street) and costs £8.99."

Celebrating a very Victorian at Christmas Porthcawl Museum

ON Saturday, December 14, Porthcawl Museum held a successful Victorian Christmas event with home made seasonal treats on offer.

Museum volunteers added to the experience in Victorian costume, from Policemen to serving maids.

Carol singing was ably performed by Ffion Margetson who was accompanied by museum volunteer Judith Ann Shaw on the museum's pianola.

The museum will close on December 21 for maintenance and preparation of new exhibitions and reopen on February 15.

However, the shop and office will remain open on Saturday mornings during the closed period.

The volunteers and committee of the museum would like to take this opportunity to wish all its members and supporters a Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

Report and photos by David Swidenbank.

RIGHT: Ffion Margetson sang carols, accompanied by Judith Ann Shaw.

Dog of the Week

GOLDEN oldie Juno is an 11-year-old Labrador cross Border Collie and is Bridgend Dogs Trust's 'Dog of the Week'.

She can be shy initially when it comes to meeting new people. However, once she finds her confidence she is very affectionate. She is sociable with other dogs and could live with another dog in her new home, although new owners will need to continue her training when passing dogs on the lead.

Angela Wetherall, manager at Dogs Trust Bridgend, said: "Juno is a real sweetheart and is looking for a quiet home with few visitors. She is housetrained and can be left for a few hours and can live with children 14 years old and above.

"Juno loves exploring on her walks and playing with toys. She is a real sweetie who will make a great companion."

For more information on Juno, please visit the Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre in Bridgend, CF31 4NG; or give us call on 01656 725219. You can also visit our website at www.dogstrust.org.uk.

South Wales Police call on public to sign up for counter-terroism course

AN award-winning counter terrorism training course is being made available to the public for the first time and South Wales Police want residents to sign up and help protect the UK.

Devised by counter terrorism officers and security experts, the ACT (Action Counters Terrorism) Awareness eLearning package was previously only available to staff working in crowded places like shopping centres and entertainment venues.

Now Counter Terrorism Policing has decided to open up the training to anyone who wants to become a CT Citizen, so they can learn how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident.

The programme was originally devised in partnership with Marks and Spencer - and participants needed to be signed up by their employers.

The online learning is available free of charge to anyone who wants to take part.

The decision to offer the training to the public was not made in response to the recent attack in London.

However, the tragic events which took place recently, when two people lost their lives to terrorism, were a stark reminder of the ongoing threat and the need for vigilance.

"ACT Awareness eLearning is especially useful for anyone working in or regularly visiting crowded places," says Detective Superintendent Noel Harris, head of the Wales Extremism and Counter Terrorism Unit (WECTU).

"We developed each stage alongside industry experts and to date over one and a half million modules have been completed. The course has been so popular, with nine out of 10 users saying they would recommend it, we want to open it up to as many people as possible.

"The threat level remains at Substantial – meaning an attack is likely - so giving everyone the chance to be extra eyes and ears for police and local security teams help to keep all communities across south Wales force area safe. The festive period is obviously a very busy one, so this is a good time to join up and become a CT Citizen."

ACT Awareness is made up of seven modules that take a few minutes each to complete.

Participantscan pause and re-join at any time.

In total it takes just 45 minutes – so less than an hour of your time could help to prevent an attack or help save lives if one was to happen.

Crackdown on drug and drink drivers

POLICE are launching a campaign aimed at clamping down on drug and drink drivers over the festive period.

South Wales Police's initiative, launched on its social media platforms on December 11, shows footage of real incidents of driving under the influence with key words highlighting the impact it can have.

Last year more than 3,500 drink drive tests were carried out across the force area resulting in 179 arrests.

More than 140 drug wipes were carried out, leading to 65 arrests.

Police intelligence suggests that drivers aged between 17-25 are involved in a disproportionate number of drink and drug drive offences.

Officers will be carrying out targeted operational activity from December 18 until January 1, providing an increased police presence throughout south Wales.

Assistant Chief Constable Andy Valentine said: "Drink or drug driving is completely unacceptable at any time, and catching motorists who are prepared to take such a risk continues to be a priority for us."

"In recent years the number of drivers choosing to use illegal substances and drive has been increasing. With new technology available, we are able to detect drivers driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs far easier than ever before. "The message is clear - don't drink or drug drive. If someone decides to drive while under the influence of drink or drugs, they should expect to be caught."

Anyone who suspects someone is driving under the influence of drugs or drink should call police immediately on 101, or 999 if they are posing imminent danger.

Alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

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Aston Martin apprentices meet ministers at official opening

Jane Hutt AM with Aston Martin apprentices, Bryan Godsell of Unite and Hazel Martin, HR Director.

A COMMITMENT to recruiting apprentices was a key point in CEO Dr Andy Palmer's address at the official opening of the Aston Martin facility in St Athan recently.

He announced that 600 jobs will be created next year and 750 at peak production to manufacture the new SUV DBX and electric cars in the future.

Vale AM Jane Hutt joined First Minister Mark Drakeford AM and Bryan Godsell of Unite the Union to meet apprentices drawn from Cowbridge, Bridgend, Swansea and Cardiff.

Jane Hutt said: "It was great to meet the apprentices from local schools and to view the new cars with 'Hand built in Wales' inscribed on each car 80% of which will be exported"

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Sports travel business takes on a new challenge

Jim Strachan (back row right) and Deb Bowen Rees (back row second right) are joined by members of the WNO just before they left for Morocco.

A COWBRIDGE-BASED travel agent that specialises in sports travel recently took on an task – transporting the Welsh National Opera (WNO) to a concert in North Africa.

Earlier this month, The WNO orchestra jetted off from Cardiff Airport to Rabat, Morocco, on a private charter organised by Strachan Travel.

Co-ordinating the arrangements of 92 passengers and 32 musical instruments was handled by Jim Strachan, the director of Strachan Travel, who has worked in the travel industry for 60 years. The group were welcomed at the airport by Deborah Bowen Rees, the CEO of Cardiff Airport.

The Welsh National Opera Orchestra were travelling to Rabat for a performance at the Mohammed V National Theatre on December 5, 2019. The concert marked the company's first appearance in Morocco and in Africa as a whole.

Peter Harrap, orchestra and chorus director at WNO, said: "We were absolutely delighted that Welsh National Opera were able to visit Morocco and Africa for the first time."

The concert was part of the strategic partnership between the UK and Morocco. The co-operation aims to heighten cultural exchange between the two nations in addition to strengthening political and economic ties.

While in Rabat on December 5, members of the orchestra visited a Moroccan public primary school to give music lessons, and the orchestra invited the schoolchildren to attend their concert rehearsal.

A WNO spokesperson said: "This initiative was part of WNO's commitment to make art accessible to all."

Remembering loved ones with lights ceremony

SUPPORTERS of Marie Curie's Cardiff and the Vale Hospice have come together to remember their loved ones at a candlelit ceremony in Penarth this Christmas.

The charity's Lights to Remember event saw family and friends of former patients come together to celebrate the lives of loved ones they've lost at a service held at the Penarth Pier Pavilion.

All attendees were invited to decorate the Christmas tree with their message of remembrance to a loved one with the service led by the hospice's Spiritual Care Coordinator, Claire Wretham.

A candle-lit walk from the hospice to the Pier also took place ahead of the evening service.

Howell's School choir performed a medley of Christmas songs during the afternoon service, while the Salvation Army band and the Gabalfa Community Choir provided entertainment for the evening service.

Hannah Leckie, Community Fundraiser at Marie Curie said: "Our Lights to Remember ceremony is an opportunity to remember someone special to you but also celebrate the impact they've had on your life. It was lovely to see so many people of all ages come together at a special time of year for a moment of reflection."

More than £3,500 was raised on the evening, with all donations going towards Marie Curie's services in Wales which provide care and support to people living with terminal illness.

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A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our customers

Lovell strikes gold at Careers Wales Valued Partner Awards

LEFT: Jacob Scott, assistant site manager at Cot Farm, Alex Smith, Land & Partnerships graduate, Nicola Murray, project skills coordinator, Daxa Patel, HR & training advisor and Victoria Burston-Yates, Careers Wales adviser.

RIGHT: Nicola Murray with her accolades.

PARTNERSHIP developer Lovell has been awarded gold in Careers Wales' recent Valued Partner Awards for its successful work in helping students prepare for their future careers.

More than 50 companies from across Wales attended the ceremony, which was hosted by BBC Radio Wales presenter Jason Mohammed. Nicola Murray, from Bridgend, who accepted the award, works as a project skills coordinator for the south Wales and south west region of Lovell, working to ensure that young people across Wales are aware of the huge number of opportunities within the construction industry.

Careers Wales aims to make links between education and employers by bringing schools and businesses together to inform, inspire and motivate young people about their future career opportunities.

Careers Wales nominated Nicola for a team building task that she regularly carries out with local schools, where pupils take part in building a four-foot squared wooden house.

She said: "I was so surprised when I found out that I had been nominated: I love the work that I do, so I was delighted to find out that it has such a positive effect on those I work with.

"I'd like to give my thanks to Yvonne Carroll and Victoria Burston-Yates who are two of the Careers Wales advisers that I work in partnership with, to identify the schools most likely to benefit from our collaboration in the Newport area.

"For such a long time, the construction industry has been perceived in schools as just a building site and of course this isn't the case; we work with schools to highlight the opportunities in the industry for young men and women from a variety of backgrounds and academic levels."

Nikki Lawrence of Careers Wales said: "The Valued Partner Award scheme is instrumental to the work Careers Wales does and we greatly appreciate the support we receive from each and every one of our Valued Partners. Ultimately, we'd like employers to feed into the national curriculum to ensure the skills students are developing will be useful to the evolving workplace.

"Without our Valued Partners, we wouldn't be able to reach as many students at such a granular level and for that we are very grateful."

This year, 17 companies picked up gold awards, 24 companies won silver and 14 companies took home a bronze.

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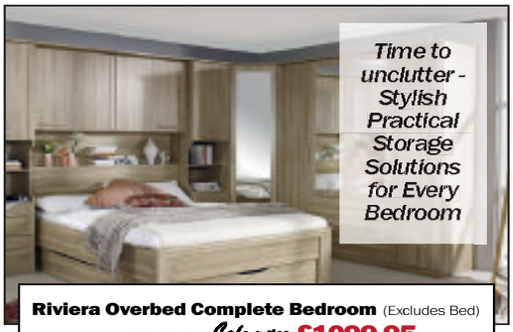

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Primary school students showcase Shakespeare

PUPILS from Dinas Powys Primary School's Shakespeare group recently gave a performance of *The Tempest*, as part of the Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

Under the close direction of year 3 teacher and accomplished director in her own right, Mrs Ryn Harries, the year 6 pupils performed the drama at the Riverfront Theatre in Newport.

The cast were subsequently invited to represent Wales, performing at the dinner at the Senate House, University of London.

Twenty students undertook a 'Flashmob Production', again to high acclaim.

Headteacher Julie Thompson praised their efforts: "We are extremely proud of those who took part in the shows. To have represented their country in the performing arts is a true honour, providing an experience of a lifetime."

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Lovelight concert shines a light on cancer support choir

THE Tenovus Cancer Care choir, Sing with Us, are celebrating after a fantastic festive concert held at All Saints' Church, Barry.

The special Lovelight concert, hosted by Jane Hutt AM was a chance to bring people together through song this Christmas.

It was a celebration to support everyone affected by cancer, and a chance to remember loved ones who have been lost to the disease.

The charity, which support thousands of families, has been holding these Lovelight concerts across Wales for the past decade but it was the first time there's been one in Barry for a while. They were delighted to bring the festivities back to the town and give Sing with Us Barry, a choir made up of people whose lives have been affected by cancer, a chance to perform with other talented artists.

They were joined on the night by Barry Community Choir, a fantastic young singer songwriter Patsy Hunt (who recently sang at GlastonBarry) and the energetic Treading the Boards children's performing arts group.

During the concert candles were lit as a chance to reflect upon those who have been affected by cancer, those who have survived it, those who are currently going through it and those who have lost their lives.

It was a moving tribute, and the Sing with Us Barry choir, conducted by Jo Wood, sang beautifully to mark the moment.

Carys Jenkins, fundraising manager for Tenovus Cancer Care said: "It was a truly wonderful night and we were so pleased to see the church absolutely full with people supporting our cause, and enjoying their chance to remember loved ones. Christmas can be such a difficult time for those who are grieving, so it's important for us to bring people together in celebration and support.

"We were so pleased to have raised over £1,000 this year and can't wait to bring the Lovelight concert back to Barry in December 2020!"

If you or someone you love has been affected by cancer, Tenovus Cancer Care can offer help and support. The Tenovus Cancer Care free Support Line is open 365 days a year from 8am-8pm. Call them on 0808 808 1010.

New scheme to protect abuse victims comes into force

A NEW, simplified way of working to protect adults and children at risk of neglect or abuse is now in effect in two parts of Wales.

Both Cardiff and the Vale and Gwent Regional Safeguarding Boards last week formally adopted the new Wales Safeguarding Procedures.

As a result, thousands of practitioners working with adults and children in these areas - such as teachers, nurses, social workers and volunteers – are now working to the same guidelines.

Lance Carver, Director of Social Services at the Vale Council and co-chair of the Cardiff and the Vale Regional Safeguarding Board said: "The adoption of the Wales Safeguarding Procedures by the first two regional safeguarding boards represents a significant milestone in improving how we all work together to better protect those at risk or harm or neglect.

"Anyone can view the procedures online or download the app. This is important, as it means that everybody working with adults or children will always be able to find out quickly and easily what to do if they suspect an individual is at risk. We believe this will have a significant impact on how and when potential incidents of harm or neglect are reported."

Wales became the first part of the UK to introduce a single set of digital safeguarding guidelines when the Wales Safeguarding Procedures were launched in November. The procedures set out for anyone working with children or adults what to do if they suspect an individual is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm.

Uniquely, there are no printed copies of the procedures. They are available to everyone online, either via the dedicated Wales Safeguarding Procedures website or a mobile app.

Claire Marchant, Cardiff Council Director of Social Services and co-chair of the Cardiff and the Vale Regional Safeguarding Board, said: "Safeguarding is everyone's business and it is vital that the guidance contained in the procedures is seen by all those working with adults and children, whatever job they are in. Both platforms are easy to navigate, so that the right information can be quickly found. This means that everyone has access to the same information, ensuring a consistent approach across all sectors and organisations. It is little things like this that will really transform how we work."

To ensure that roles and responsibilities are clear, 'pointers for practice' are featured throughout both the web and app versions of the procedures and draw on the latest research and practice developments.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures app are available for download now via the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. They can also be viewed in English at www.safeguarding.wales and in Welsh at www.diogelu.cymru.

The GEM

will be taking a break for Christmas

Our next edition will be available

2nd January 2020

Visit glamorgan-gem.co.uk

for all the latest news, sport, community news and local advertisers

The site will be updated every day over the festive period

We would like to wish all our Readers and Advertisers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Award for tall ship charity that challenges young people

The award is presented by Jonathan Cheshire (chairman, Sail Training International) to trustees Vicky Williams and Andy Hall from Challenge Wales.

PENARTH-BASED charity Challenge Wales has scooped an international award of 'Sail Training Organisation of the Year' at an industry conference in Antwerp.

The Challenge Wales charity, which operates the sail training vessels 'Challenge Wales Tall Ship' and 'Adventure Wales' won the award due to the work it has done during 2019 with hundreds of disadvantaged young people, helping them to develop their employability skills.

The charity is only the third UK recipient of the Award since the awards started in 2007.

The predominantly volunteer-run charity provides social and personal development training for those aged 12–25 years and has worked with homeless, or at risk of homeless, young people as well as young carers, those in the care system, young people with learning difficulties, LGBTQ groups, college and school pupils and those who are financially disadvantaged through unemployment or lack of opportunities.

The charity has also developed Agored Cymru accredited learning, undertaken onboard, giving young people something tangible for their CV.

Paul Bishop, head of race directorate at Sail Training International said: "This has been a great year for Challenge Wales and they have been an inspiration to all of us involved in Sail Training.

"Challenge Wales engages in remarkable youth development, which demonstrates innovation, best practice and delivering excellence – which is why they are so deserving of the Sail Training Organisation of the Year Award."

A trustee of Challenge Wales, Vicky Williams said: "Winning this award, in our 10th year, is an amazing accolade to our volunteers, supporters and team.

"We've had some amazing results getting young people back into employment, volunteering or education and through independent evaluation our sail training programme has been evidenced to show that it has a positive impact on young people's mental health and wellbeing, as well as developing their life skills.

"Sail Training is a great leveller and challenges the individual."

Challenge Wales has an exciting sail training programme planned for 2020 that young people and groups can be part of, with bursary funding available to support many young people aged 12–25 years.

BBC scheme for budding directors gets underway

UP-AND-COMING directors are being given the opportunity to make their first longform documentary as the BBC Cymru Wales New Documentary Directors' Initiative is open for applications.

The scheme, now in its second year, offers four new directors a chance to work with leading documentary makers and develop their skills as they produce and direct their first longform film for broadcast on BBC One Wales and BBC iPlayer.

The successful scheme boasts a list of well-received previous titles, including Hell on Wheels, Toby Cameron's documentary following a roller derby team as they headed to the biggest sporting tournament of their lives. Hell on Wheels was also screened at the Wales International Documentary Festival. A series following the team's next sporting ventures has since been commissioned.

Another successful film, Bethan Evans' Desperate to Drive tells the story of a unique driving centre where higher risk drivers who have been stopped from driving through illness or accident have a chance to prove they're safe to get back behind the wheel. A man who recently lost his leg and a former lorry driver with dementia are among four people we follow.

Finally, Young Parents Hostel, directed by Jacqueline Lee, was filmed over nine months. It follows the lives of three young single parents who found themselves homeless and were thrown the lifeline of a place in a hostel where they all strive to become the best parents they can be as they wait for their first home.

Applicants for the next round of the initiative are invited to submit their ideas on the BBC's Careershub website. The four successful candidates will be invited to work with a production company to turn their ideas into a half-hour documentary.

BBC Head of Commissioning Nick Andrews said:

"This is a fantastic initiative that's developing fresh film making talent from Wales. The next generation of storytellers. Hell on Wheels, Desperate to Drive and Young Parents Hostel are amazing pieces of work.

"At goes without saying that BBC Wales is looking for interesting, original stories about Wales, to be told with passion, and we can't wait to receive this year's applications."

PM reveals new Secretary of State for Wales

LEFT: New Welsh Secretary Simon Hart.

RIGHT: Former Secretary of State for Wales Alun Cairns

PRIME Minister Boris Johnson has found a replacement for Vale MP Alun Cairns in his top government cabinet.

MR Cairns resigned as the Secretary of State for Wales as the recent election campaign amid a row over a former aide's role in sabotaging a rape trial.

And now Mr Johnson has filled Mr Cairns' old job with Simon Hart taking up the role as Welsh secretary.

The MP for Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire has previously served as a junior minister at the Cabinet Office.

Paul Davies AM, leader of the Conservatives in the Welsh Parliament, has welcomed the new appointment.

He said: "This is one of the key posts and I am delighted that Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made this appointment.

"Simon's extensive background in many aspects of rural affairs, and experience as an MP in a number of Parliamentary committees will stand him in good stead for the challenging work the Welsh Office will bring."

Mr Davies added: "His experience as an MP and close working with colleagues from council to Assembly to Parliament will ensure that Wales - now with 14 Conservative MPs - will have a strong voice and a passionate advocate to carry on speaking up for Wales in Westminster."

Local charity thanks supporters for help during 'these uncertain times'

CHARITIES are feeling the pinch – donations across the country are down and with uncertainty over funding to some third sector bodies, Age Connects is feeling upbeat from the support received at its recent fundraising Christmas dinner at the Copthorne Hotel in Cardiff.

CEO Jeff Hawkins said: "It can be a risky commitment for a small charity and a lot of work goes into securing event sponsors, quality auction prizes and of course attracting people to attend. However, I am pleased to say our corporate sponsors, volunteers, staff and their guests did us proud."

McClure Solicitors, who provide the Age Connects free Will-making service, and Bolt Removals were the sponsors. Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale has always been well and truly at the heart of the Cardiff and Vale local communities, supporting older people for over 45 years to reduce social isolation, loneliness and promote independence and wellbeing.

In these uncertain times, Age Connects has been reaching out to local businesses and the general public to urge them to keep the charitable support they have available where it can make an immediate difference.

Karen Steele, marketing and partnerships manager, said: "We are so grateful for the support shown to our local charity by supporters, staff and volunteers alike! We strive to ensure that every supporter we work with finds the partnership mutually rewarding. We are always open to forming new partnerships, so please do get in touch if you feel you or your organisation can help us."

For more information, go to *www.ageconnects-cardiff.org.uk* or telephone 02920 683 604.

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Season's Greetings

The ghosts of Christmas presents past

PREPARE for a seasonal saunter down memory lane. New research by musicMagpie has listed the holiday season's most popular toys for the last 50 years - and it's filled with absolute Christmas crackers.

The clearest trend is the rise of techie prezzies, and with it, skyrocketing prices. As recently as the 1990s, on average, the top five most popular gifts each year totalled a combined cost of £336 in today's money - a far cry from the £1,466 total for 2019.

From the 1970s to the turn of the millennium, these are our favourite Christmas toys that you (or your parents) definitely played with as a kid...

Space Hopper, 1971

Also known as a moon hopper, hoppity horse, skippyball and a great many other things, the humble space hopper sprang into the nation's living rooms with a satisfying 'boing' and more than a little collateral damage.

Ahead of the Mastermind memory game and the 99p Etch-A-Sketch in the festive stakes, the hopper found success in a less technical era, when personal stereos and electronic entertainment systems were still some years off.

It was a simpler time. A bouncier time.

Pet Rock, 1975

If you were to tell

today's youth that when you were a nipper, the Christmas craze was a cardboard box containing a pebble, they'd probably accuse you of being born in the Stone Age.

Nevertheless, the very literal 'pet rock' beat out a portable tape player, first-ever-successful-video-game Pong, and perennial stocking-stuffer Monopoly to take top spot in 1975. Each specimen was packaged with air holes, and came with a tongue-in-cheek instruction manual on rock welfare.

Creator Gary Dahl bought the rocks for a cent a piece from a Mexican beach, marketed them for £1.75 (nearly £15 adjusting for inflation), and promptly became a millionaire.

Hungry Hungry Hippos, 1978

Beautiful in its simplicity, Hungry Hungry Hippos was a back-to-basics, fun-for-all-the-family festive option, after more expensive gifts like the Atari games console and 8 track cassette player found success in preceding years.

Published by table-top giants Hasbro, the game debuted with a successful TV ad campaign featuring a line of cartoon hippos and a memorable jingle: "It's a race, it's a chase, hurry up and feed their face!"

Fun fact: The four original hippos were called Lizzie, Henry, Homer and Harry.

Rubik's Cube, 1980

Part of the furniture in the modern toy shop, it seems almost strange that there was a time before the Rubik's Cube, but these portable puzzles were invented by the Hungarian sculptor Erno Rubik in 1974.

Now thought to be the world's bestselling toy, the cube was initially a mechanical experiment, designed to retain structural integrity despite consisting entirely of moving parts. After a quick re-branding, the puzzle went the toy equivalent of viral, delighting and infuriating children and adults, communists and capitalists alike.

Today, the coloured cubes have embraced the modern era with the rise of 'speedcubing', in which players compete against opponents and against the clock. The current world record for a single 3 x 3 x 3 stands at 3.47 seconds, set by Chinese cuber Yusheng Du.

It still sounds like child's play compared to our favourite Rubik's record - fastest time to solve three Rubik's Cubes while juggling.

Optimus Prime, 1984

Two decades before Michael Bay's smash n' bash Transformers movies pushed Autobots and Decepticons back into the public consciousness, Optimus Prime was topping the Christmas charts with a successful Hasbro toy line and a brand new animated TV series.

The flagship Optimus figurine cost £16.87 (around £50 today) and could mechanically transform from truck to robot and back again. Now something of a collector's item, factory sealed 1984 models are selling on eBay for upward of $4,000.

PlayStation, 1995

The early-Nineties saw a mini-Renaissance for conventional toys - Barbie, Action Man, Play-Doh, Silly Putty and the Cabbage Patch Kids all managed to cut through the tide of tech - but in 1995 the Sony PlayStation ushered in a new era of video game dominance.

The system wrecked the festive market. A September release in North America yielded 800,000 sales by the year's end, while critics fell over themselves to praise the new emphasis on 3D. Nine years later, it became the first console ever to shift more than 100 million units.

By then the race between Sony, Nintendo, and Microsoft was dominating Christmas lists across the land: 2005, 2006 and 2007 were topped by the Xbox 360, the Nintendo Wii, and the PlayStation 3 respectively, until they were displaced in 2008 by, of all things, a High School Musical-themed dance mat.

Staff at The GEM would like to wish readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

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Councillor Christine Cave

The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan extends Seasons Greetings to all residents, and Volunteers living in the Vale of Glamorgan who provide great support to their communities.

May God's peace be in your hearts and homes this Christmas season and throughout the New year.

Cllr Christine Cave with Barry Rotary Elves

Cynghorydd Christine Cave

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Farming matters

by FUW's Rachel Saunders

SPEEDING towards the end of the year and with the county office closing on Friday for the Christmas break (we're open again from January 2), I thought it a good time to reflect on some of the things we have been busy with this year.

2019 has certainly kept us on our toes. Brexit, processors and marts closing all over the country, farm safety, rural crime, political game-playing, NVZ's, bovine TB, mental health and many other farming matters meant we had to be alert and ready to defend the industry at all times.

Throughout the year, we have regularly met with Welsh and UK Government, including First Minister Mark Drakeford, our Cabinet Secretary Lesley Griffiths, as well as DEFRA minister Michael Gove and many other key decision-makers.

Our officials and staff have been working tirelessly to keep on top of proposed changes to farming policy in Wales, scrutinising legislation and doing their best to ensure that thriving, sustainable family farms are a thing of the future and not the past.

Farming Matters remained firmly on the agenda for us in 2019 and we used every opportunity to highlight the disastrous impacts a no-deal Brexit would have on farming in Wales and why farming matters to more than just farmers.

We were clear when we met politicians - not only do farms produce food, but they are also the cornerstone of our rural economies. Family farms are at the heart of our rural economy, caring for our landscape, and of course our culture.

You, our members, make innumerable other contributions to the well-being of Wales and the UK and central to such benefits is the production of food and the improvement in domestic food security.

Over the last 12 months, we have also made it clear that a multiannual financial framework needs to be agreed which ensures Welsh agriculture continues to receive sufficient levels of funding.

Sadly, the failure of UK governments to make progress on developing and agreeing on frameworks which protect Welsh and other producers against distortion within the UK's home market, remains an issue we will continue to tackle next year.

With this in mind, please rest assured that in the coming year the FUW will continue to be at the forefront of the fight to protect the interests of Wales' farming families and rural communities.

On a final note before our offices close for the Christmas break, I would like to thank our staff and officials for their continued effort and hard work throughout the year and each and every one of our members, who through their membership and support, contribute to a stronger, more successful voice for Wales' agricultural industry.

Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous 2020 to you all.

Rachel Saunders, from FUW

Water, water everywhere as Penarth Ramblers defy recent rain

TWO contrasting walks from Penarth and District Ramblers heralded the same problems in the shape of water and lots of mud following recent heavy rainfall.

Robin and his group of seven walkers set off in sunshine from Lower Redbrook in Monmouthshire, heading uphill on a muddy path through Forge Wood, before making their way to All Saints Church at Newland for their morning break.

Then, it was on past the Ostrich Inn and through a series of ploughed and muddy fields to join Offa's Dyke Path to reach the Kymin, where they visited The Naval Temple and the Roundhouse. Following lunch overlooking Monmouth, a descent on a slippery track through woodland brought them to the Wye Bridge, where they joined the Wye Valley Walk along the riverbank beside the swollen river for the journey back to their start.

William and his companions headed out from the ruined Barry Castle and, descending the Golden Stairs, were faced with floods in Porthkerry Country Park, before clambering up a slippery path to the Bulwarks Iron Age hillfort.

Making their way through Porthkerry Leisure Park onto the clifftop at Rhoose Point and past the the old flooded limestone quarries, they tramped to the old village pump in Rhoose village for their morning break. They headed for Kenson Hill, across the stone river bridge, followed by a difficult muddy journey through the Nant Carfan Valley. Cleaning their boots in the ford at Llancarfan, they visited St Cadoc's Church to admire the medieval wall paintings, and then set out for Penmark. More sodden fields led them to Port Road for the return via the Whitelands Valley, Porthkerry Viaduct and main meadow for a last climb through woodland to return to their start.

On December 21, a 10-mile moderate walk through parks and green spaces at Cardiff will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 9am; call Rachel on 01446 410545.

On December 23, a 6-mile easy walk taking in clifftops and Cosmeston will leave Penarth clifftop car park at 10am; call Susan J on 07969 974 921.

On December 24, a 4-mile easy walk taking in Penarth parks and pier will leave All Saints Church, Penarth at 10am; call Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On December 27, a 6-mile easy walk around Cardiff Bay will leave Cogan Leisure Centre at 10am; call Ann on 029 2040 7319.

On December 30, a 4-mile easy walk taking in Porthkerry Park and Church will leave the Bridge car park, Cold Knap at 10am; call Jan/John on 01446 418514.

On January 1, a 4-mile easy/mod walk to the Salmon Leaps will leave Dinas Powys Village Square at 10.30am; call Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

For up to date information log onto *www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com* Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

Joy Strangward

Festive season can be less than perfect for some

A MENTAL health charity has joined up with Twitter to encourage users to have open conversations about the pressures of Christmas.

Calm (Campaign Against Living Miserably) is hoping that the online discussions will show that Christmas is not always 'the most wonderful time of the year' for everyone.

Using the hashtag #YuleSlog, celebrities including Made In Chelsea's Louise Thompson and actress Vicky McClure are sharing posts showing how the festive period can be less than perfect.

It comes as a survey showed almost half of Twitter users felt anxious over pressure to have fun, lonely or left out of social events over Christmas.

While the period is typically associated with joyfulness and giving, people also can come under pressure to have a 'perfect' Christmas, experience family struggles and feel nostalgia for past Christmases.

These feelings can be exacerbated by social media posts of seemingly perfect get-togethers.

Line of Duty star McClure tweeted: "The pressure to have an amazing Christmas, we all want it to go smoothly, it never does! So whatever you see on people's social media this Christmas, that 'perfection' is never a true reflection".

The charity has created the acronym Noel to give people tips on how to cope: they say 'No, Open up, Enjoy what you can, and Look forward'.

Simon Gunning, chief executive of the Campaign Against Living Miserably (Calm), said: "The festive period can be a difficult time for lots of people, with 49% of Twitter users saying they felt pressured to have fun during the festive period.

In partnering with Twitter for the #YuleSlog campaign we want to acknowledge this and let people know that Calm understands.

"Spreading a message of reality and positivity can be empowering for those struggling through this period and with this partnership we aim to celebrate the power of connection and communication, something we see through our free and anonymous helpline and webchat, which are open from 5pm-midnight every day across Christmas."

Katy Minshall, head of UK Government, Public Policy and Philanthropy at Twitter said: "We're pleased to partner with Calm in this campaign as it leverages Twitter's public nature to encourage conversation around mental health - a topic that isn't easy to discuss especially at Christmas time.

"Calm's great work spans all year and hopefully #YuleSlog can generate some openness and support for those who need it."

Parents are hiring babysitters to act as 'hangover childcare'

A UK online childcare platform has revealed there is a growing trend of 'hangover childcare', after seeing requests for babysitters following festive celebrations increase by more than 500% compared with this time last year.

A survey of its parent members revealed that 85% would consider hiring a babysitter because of a hangover, with the majority answering it would help them recover quicker, and a third saying they aren't good parents while hungover.

This year, more than 1,800 parents have already requested childcare the day after festive celebrations in December and early January via the platform's free Babysitter Jobs feature.

The research, commissioned by Childcare.co.uk, found that there has been a 500% spike in requests from parents and guardians looking for childcare the morning after Friday, December 20 (also known as Frantic Friday), one of the most popular dates for Christmas parties, New Year's Day and the day after Boxing Day (December 27), when compared to the same period in 2018.

Childcare.co.uk is a platform which allows parents to search for and connect with babysitters, childminders, nannies, nurseries, private tutors and schools and also allows childcare providers to advertise their services. The site has more than 2 million users nationwide and is the largest online community for parents in the UK having launched in 2009.

Richard Conway, founder of Childcare.co.uk, said: "As a parent myself, I can understand why people might be looking for hangover childcare, especially during the festive period and after their work Christmas parties. I'm very interested to see whether this trend continues to grow next year too!"

Staff at The GEM would like to wish readers a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

Amira is a child of courage!

Lindsay Roberts of Roberts Keen IFA presents Amira with a cheque for £500, raised by the Bridgend and Vale Business Club (BVBC)

A YOUNG girl from Maesteg, Amira Barry, has been named a 'Child of Courage' by her local radio station for her "inspiring" response to a diagnosis of leukaemia.

Amira, who goes to St Mary's and St Patrick's Primary School in Maesteg, was diagnosed with leukaemia in July 2018 at the age of six.

She spent two weeks in Noah's Ark Hospital, Cardiff, enduring intensive treatment, and will continue to have treatment until until September 2020.

This includes monthly visits to the hospital for steroids and chemotherapy, and a visit every three months for a lumber puncture, plus daily medication.

Throughout this time the family have been supported by the LATCH Welsh Children's cancer charity.

Having seen first hand the impact of their services, Amira and her family were keen to give back and help ensure Latch's support services continue for many years.

So, since her treatment began, Amira's family and community have been heavily involved in fundraising – with over £15,000 being raised in Amira's name alone in little over a year. The family has constantly used Amira's experience to highlight the work of LATCH.

Amira has recently been appointed as LATCH's youngest 'ambassador' and was also been awarded the accolade of 'Child of Courage' by Bridge FM.

Her proud grandmother, Joan Barry, told The GEM: "Throughout all her treatments and numerous admissions to hospital, Amira always has a smile on her face and is always thinking about others. She is an inspirational young girl to all who know her."

After hearing about Amira, the Bridgend and Vale Business Club (BVBC) recently decided to make a donation of £500 to her fundraising campaign

A Christmas message from police chief

AS we move towards Christmas, the South Wales Police head of the rural Vale, Chief Inspector Tony Williams is offering seasonal good wishes – and good advice:

"As we move towards the end of a very busy year, I would like to provide you with crime prevention advice to keep you safe over this festive period.

"Motorists in Cowbridge and the wider Vale area are being urged to ensure their vehicles are kept secure, with all valuables removed, following a number of thefts in recent weeks.

"The area has seen a spike in auto-crime, with five cars broken in to within the last week alone. A further five incidents were also reported during November.

"The vast majority of vehicles were left insecure, and while many of the thefts happened overnight, officers are reminding vehicle owners to be vigilant at all times.

"While people should be able to leave property in their cars and vans, or leave their car unlocked for a brief moment, it is a sad fact that it is simply not safe to do so.

"If you are going away at Christmas time, please secure your home by locking all the doors, windows and gates. Also, set timer lights and ask a neighbour or relative to keep an eye on your property.

"When you are out and about doing your Christmas shopping, make sure your purse and wallet are secure and away from pick-pockets and don't leave your new Christmas gifts on display in parked vehicles.

"After Christmas day, don't leave empty packaging of expensive items outside or on show because this could advertise to potential burglars what's in your home.

"If you are going out for the evening, ensure to plan your route in advance, carry a charged mobile phone and cash and tell someone where you are going and when you are due back. Whilst you are out, be vigilant by drinking sensibly, don't leave your glass unattended and make sure you know what you are drinking.

"There have been cases across the country where people have had their car stolen because they have left it unattended whilst it is defrosting with the engine running and the keys in the ignition. Don't give thieves an easy getaway!

"As always, officers will be carrying out the national Anti-Drink/Drug Drive Campaign which starts on December 18. The public are reminded about the dangers and risks of drink/drug driving.

"We would advise drivers to not even have one drink if you are driving, as this is the only safe option. If you are going out, choose a designated driver for the evening to ensure everyone's night ends safely.

"Finally, I would like to wish The GEM readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year, from all officers in the Vale. Christmas is usually a very busy time for emergency services, I would like to personally thank officers and staff who will be working during this period and won't be able to spend time with their families."

Just Go! Holidays
UK BREAKS
Reader travel
Tindle Newspapers
By Coach from Bridgend & Cardiff

BOURNEMOUTH
Steam Railway & Monkey World

Departing Monday 15 Jun

From our base in the bustling resort of Bournemouth with its golden sands and historic pier, we explore neighbouring Poole and the glorious gardens at Exbury. We also discover the heart-warming story of the rescue of primates at the Monkey World sanctuary.

Your break includes
- Return coach travel from Bridgend & Cardiff
- 4 nights at the Heathlands Hotel, Bournemouth with dinner & breakfast
- Excursions to Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway, Monkey World & Poole

Optional excursion to Dorchester Market & Weymouth (£12pp)

5 Days by Coach only £329
Single Supplement £60

GREAT LITTLE TRAINS
of North Wales

Departing Monday 29 Jun

Join us as we explore the spectacular scenery and historic railways and tramways of North Wales. A rugged coastline, magnificent castles and the endless panoramas of the Snowdonia National Park make for a memorable break away from it all.

Your break includes
- Return coach travel from Bridgend & Cardiff
- 4 nights at the Westminster Hotel, Rhyl with dinner & breakfast
- Entertainment some evenings
- Heritage journeys on the Welsh Highland Railway, Great Orme Tramway & Ffestiniog Railway
- Excursions to Caernarfon, Llandudno & Portmeirion

5 Days by Coach only £319
Single Supplement £60

ISLE OF WIGHT
Royals & Rails

Departing Monday 7 Sep

From the striking natural majesty of The Needles to the peaceful inland villages, the Isle of Wight is a haven of old-fashioned charm and inspiring scenery. With elegant resort towns, spotless beaches and miles of unspoilt coastline, it's a timeless destination.

Your break includes
- Return coach travel and ferry crossings from Bridgend & Cardiff
- 4 nights at the Medehamstede Hotel, Shanklin with dinner & breakfast
- Entertainment some evenings
- Heritage train journey on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway
- Excursions to Osborne House, Cowes & Ryde

Optional Island Highlights Tour (£12pp)

5 Days by Coach only £319
Single Supplement £60

For more information, or to book, please call
03332 341 875 Quote TIN
033 numbers are free within inclusive minutes packages otherwise standard rates apply.
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Book today!

Gwastraf ac ailgylchu y NADOLIG hwn

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Diddymu'r cyfyngiadau mewn perthynas â bagiau duon ar gyfer casgliadau'r Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd

Rydym yn cydnabod ein bod oll yn cynhyrchu llawer mwy o wastraff ac ailgylchu dros y cyfnod hwn, felly, fel y gwnaethom addo, o **ddydd Llun 23 Rhagfyr 2019 – dydd Gwener 10 Ionawr 2020,** ni fydd y cyfyngiad o 2 fag du fesul cartref yn berthnasol. **Bydd y cyfyngiad i 2 fag du yn ail-ddechrau o ddydd Llun 13 Ionawr 2020**

Ailgylchu

Gall pob bwyd sy'n weddill, gan gynnwys pilion llysiau a sgerbydau tyrcwn fynd i'ch bin gwastraff bwyd. Gall cardiau Nadolig (heb gliter/ffoil) a chardfwrdd fynd yn eich bocs gwyrdd/bag glas neu eich bag oren os ydych chi ar y gwasanaeth newydd.

Peidiwch â chynnwys unrhyw bapur lapio yn eich bagiau neu flychau ailgylchu. Dylid gosod pob papur lapio yn eich bag du.

Yn anffodus ni allwn gasglu: goleuadau Nadolig, tâp selo, clymau, tinsel/addurniadau, polystyren neu ddolenni bagiau anrhegion.

Ailgylchu coed Nadolig

Byddwn yn casglu Coed Nadolig o
ddydd Llun 13 Ionawr i ddydd Gwener 17 Ionawr 2020
ar eich diwrnod casglu arferol.

Dim ond coed Nadolig go iawn allwn ni eu casglu i'w hailgylchu. Gwaredwch unrhyw addurniadau ac unrhyw bridd. Os yw'n dalach na 6 troedfedd, torrwch y goeden i'r hyd yma a'i gadael ar y pafin erbyn 7.00am.

www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk

Ffôn: 01446 700111 E-bost: C1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Diolch am eich cydweithrediad wrth i ni gyflwyno newidiadau i'r gwasanaeth ailgylchu a gwastraff. Dyma nodyn i'ch atgoffa am rai newidiadau i'r gwasanaeth dros gyfnod yr Ŵyl. Nadolig llawen a blwyddyn newydd dda i bawb.

Dyma ddyddiadau casglu'r Nadolig a'r Flwyddyn Newydd:

Diwrnod Casglu Arferol:		Yn newid i:
Dydd Mawrth 24 Rhagfyr	-	Dim newid
Dydd Mercher 25 Rhagfyr	i	Ddydd Gwener 27 Rhagfyr
Dydd Iau 26 Rhagfyr	i	Ddydd Sadwrn 28 Rhagfyr
Dydd Gwener 27 Rhagfyr	i	Ddydd Sul 29 Rhagfyr
Dydd Llun 30 Rhagfyr	-	Dim newid
Dydd Mawrth 31 Rhagfyr	-	Dim newid
Dydd Mercher 1 Ionawr 2020	i	Ddydd Iau 2 Ionawr
Dydd Iau 2 Ionawr	i	Ddydd Gwener 3 Ionawr
Dydd Gwener 3 Ionawr	i	Ddydd Sadwrn 4 Ionawr

Diwrnod ailgylchu arferol o 6 Ionawr

Bro Morgannwg yn ailgylchu
Vale of Glamorgan recycles

Canolfannau ailgylchu gwastraff y cartref

Bydd ein Canolfannau Ailgylchu Gwastraff y Cartref ar Ystâd Fasnachu'r Iwerydd ac Ystâd Ddiwydiannol Llandŵ ar gau **Ddydd Nadolig, Gŵyl San Steffan a Dydd Calan.**

Your CHRISTMAS waste and recycling

VALE of GLAMORGAN
BRO MORGANNWG

Temporary lift on black bag restriction for Christmas and New Year collections

We recognise that we all produce a lot more waste and recycling this time of year, so, as promised, from **Monday 23 December 2019 - Friday 10 January 2020** there will be **no** black bag restrictions between these dates. **The 2 black bags restriction will resume from Monday 13 January 2020.**

Recycling

All your food leftovers including vegetable peelings and turkey carcasses can go in your food waste bin. Christmas cards and cardboard without glitter can be included in your blue bag or recycling box or in your orange bag if you are on the new service.

Please do not include any wrapping paper in your recycling bags or boxes. All wrapping paper should be placed in your black bag.

Unfortunately we are unable to collect: fairy lights, sticky tape, bows, tinsel/decoration, polystyrene or gift bag handles.

Christmas tree recycling

We will collect Christmas Trees from
Monday 13 January to Friday 17 January 2020
on your normal collection day.

We can only collect real trees for recycling. Please remove any decorations and soil. If longer than 6 foot please cut down to this size and place at the kerbside by 7.00am.

www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Tel: 01446 700111 Email: C1V@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Thank you for your cooperation whilst we've rolled out changes to the recycling and waste service. Here's a reminder about some changes to the service over the festive period. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all.

Your Christmas and New Year collection days

Normal Collection Day:		Changes to:
Tuesday 24 December	-	No change
Wednesday 25 December	to	Friday 27 December
Thursday 26 December	to	Saturday 28 December
Friday 27 December	to	Sunday 29 December
Monday 30 December	-	No change
Tuesday 31 December	-	No change
Wednesday 1 January 2020	to	Thursday 2 January
Thursday 2 January	to	Friday 3 January
Friday 3 January	to	Saturday 4 January

Normal collection days from 6 January

Bro Morgannwg yn ailgylchu
Vale of Glamorgan recycles

Household waste recycling centres

Our Household Waste Recycling Centres in Atlantic Trading Estate and Llandow Industrial Estate are closed on **Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.**

Panto cast visit terminally ill patients

PATIENTS at the Marie Curie Cardiff and the Vale Hospice on Bridgeman Road, Penarth, met members of the cast from the New Theatre's production Cinderella – including the Fairy Gokmother played by the well-known TV presenter, Gok Wan.

The New Theatre's spectacular family pantomime also stars comedian Mike Doyle and Ceri Dupree as The Ugly Sisters.

Comedian Phil Butler has also taken on the role of Buttons.

The show will be running until Sunday 12 January 2020 and promises a production packed full of sensational special effects, beautiful costumes, music, comedy, dancing, and audience participation.

Between performances on Wednesday, the cast popped by the Penarth hospice, which provides round-the-clock expert care and support for people living with a terminal illness, and their families, to wish everyone a Merry Christmas.

Gok Wan said: "It was fantastic to meet some of the wonderful patients at the hospice today and to spread a little Christmas Cheer. The staff here provide such fantastic care and it's lovely to see how well looked after everyone is.

"Christmas can be a difficult time of year for people living with a terminal illness so we were delighted to have the opportunity to spread a little magic."

Sarah Lloyd-Davies, hospice manager, said: "We try to do as much as we can to make sure Christmas continues to be a special occasion for the patients we care for, and their families, leading up to the big day – and on Christmas Day itself.

"We are so grateful to everyone who visits the hospice around this period to provide our patients – and our staff – with a little entertainment.

"Thank you to the cast of Cinderella for coming along and spreading some festive cheer."

Marie Curie's Information and Support Line will be open from 10am to 4pm on Christmas Eve and from 10am to 2pm on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. On New Year's Eve it will open from 10am to 4pm, and 10am to 2pm again on New Year's Day.
If you need support, call 0800 090 2309.

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Hir Pob Aros, Llanblethian

- Exclusive Contemporary Family Home
- Landscaped Gardens and Grounds of c.1 Acre
- Six Bedrooms
- Four Reception Rooms
- Four Bathrooms
- Cowbridge School Catchment
- Handcrafted Kitchen / Breakfast Room
- Set in Heart of Llanblethian

£1,395,000

Cwrt Newydd Farm, Welsh St Donats

- Impressive Smallholding
- Circa 20 Acres
- Farmhouse Dating back to circa 1850
- Owned solar panels
- Chalet style lodge to garden
- Range of Stone Barns
- Further steel portal barns and dutch barn
- Popular rural location
- Excellent pasture, flat and good for grazing with solid stock fencing

£1,395,000

Ashleigh House, Llandow

- Substantial 26 acre Smallholding
- Detached Residence
- Usefully Flexible Accommodation
- 14,500sqft Equestrian Centre
- Easy Access to Major Centres
- Modern 3000sqft Barn
- Few Minutes Drive into Cowbridge
- Seven Bedrooms
- Impressive Tree Lined Driveway Entrance

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Ash Tree House, Llanblethian

- Quality Family House
- Three Living Rooms
- Good Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Cul-De-Sac Location
- Rear Paddock Included
- Rural Views
- Behind the Village Church
- Close to Cowbridge

£799,950

The Old Manse, St Nicholas

- Former Manse
- Built 1910
- Original features
- Modern Facilities
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Living Rooms
- Wonderful Gardens
- Tucked Away Location
- Village Facilities
- Close to Cardiff

£595,000

Whitecrofts, St Georges Super Ely

- Impressive Modern Detached
- Five Double Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Renovated by Current Owners
- Double Garage
- Beautiful Countryside Views
- Off Road Parking
- Modern Fitted Kitchen and Bathroom
- 61ft Rear Garden

£549,950

Llantwit Major Road, Cowbridge

- Individually Designed Four Bed Detached Property
- Far Reaching Views
- 26 ft. Drawing Room
- Integrated Garage
- Town Centre Location
- Good Sized Flat Plot
- Viewing Recommended
- Excellent Village Facilities
- Cowbridge School Catchment

£499,999

Lon Yr Eglwys, St Brides Major

- Executive Detached Property
- Extended Internally
- Four Reception Rooms
- Four Bedrooms
- Sauna
- Master En-suite
- Double Garage
- Close to Local Amenities
- Excellent Countryside Views Towards the Coast

£485,000

Highfield, Talygarn

- Imposing Detached Property
- Offering Five Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- Impressive Gated Entrance
- Extensive Gardens
- Fusion of Character and Modernity
- Stunning Views
- Subject to Recent Refurbishment and Modernisation

£675,000

Malefant Grange, Llanmaes

- Imposing Detached House
- Five Bedrooms
- Two Further Reception Rooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Large Basement Family Room
- Mains Gas Fired Central Heating
- Attractive Front and Rear Gardens

£595,000

Cae Rex, Cowbridge

- Individual Detached Property
- No Onward Chain
- Adaptable Accommodation
- Four/Five Bedrooms
- South Facing Gardens
- Detached Garage
- Cowbridge School Catchment
- Walking Distance to Cowbridge

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- Large Detached House
- Four Bedrooms
- Sought After Location
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- Extensive Landscaped Gardens
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Heol Cae Pwll, Colwinston

- High Quality Redrow Home
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Colwinston Village Location
- Two En-suites
- Cowbridge School Catchment
- Double Garage
- Excellent Access Links
- Private Driveway
- Lovely Countryside Views

£475,000

Sideways Cottage, Barry

- Dating Back to circa 1650
- Five Bedrooms
- Deceptively Large Detached
- Three Bathrooms
- Plenty of Original Features
- Three Reception Rooms
- Feature Inglenook Corner Bread Oven
- Palmerston and Wenvoe Primary School Catchment

£300,000

Glan Ffrwd, Coychurch

- Traditional Bay Fronted Property
- Five Bedrooms
- Victorian and Built in 1911
- Two Bathrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- Original Features Throughout
- Separate Attached Annexe
- Converted to a High Specification

£299,995

Western Courtyard, Talygarn

- Modern Townhouse
- Stylishly Appointed
- Three Bed/Two Bath
- Two Living Rooms
- Quality Kitchen
- Walkable Local Amenities
- Delightful Parkland setting in circa 50 acres
- Mainline station with easy access to major centres

£229,950

Cowbridge
01446 771777

OnTheMarket.com rightmove ARLA NAEA RICS

Out & About with The GEM

Porthcawl Medical Centre steps into Christmas with carols in their new home

ABOVE:
Children from West Park Primary School Choir.

STAFF and patients at Porthcawl Medical Centre have been getting in to the Christmas spirit with help from pupils from local primary schools.

Children from Nottage Primary School, West Park Primary School, Newton Primary and Porthcawl Primary visited the practice last week to sing Christmas carols.

Over the past month pupils have also taken part in a Christmas tree decoration competition. The winners of the competition were presented with prizes on Friday by the Mayor of Porthcawl, Cllr Graham Walter, in a special service.

Porthcawl Male Voice Choir were also on hand to entertain staff, patients and pupils.

The medical centre moved to the new premises earlier this year.

Dr Peter Evans, Senior Partner at the practice said: "We love our new building and we love Christmas so to bring the two together is amazing. We don't want children to be frightened of coming here. We want them to see it as a health centre not as an illness centre.

"We are really grateful to the teachers and children who have embraced the idea and been so fantastic in their singing. Staff and patients have been so impressed by the standard and quality of the decorations made by all the children and we want to thank them all for their hard work and for making our first Christmas in this amazing new building so special".

Twenty-two children were chosen as winners of the Christmas tree decoration competition and all received a certificate and selection box. The overall winner from each school also received an Amazon voucher.

The decorations from many of the children that took part from all four schools now decorate the Christmas tree in the entrance of the Medical Centre.

A year of popular talks at a Penarth bookstore

THAT'S a wrap – Penarth's independent bookshop, Griffin Books, brought its 2019 programme of author events to a close with two sell-out events at the end of November.

On November 19, over 300 people attended An Evening with Warren Gatland at Cardiff's Hilton Hotel. The former Wales head coach spoke openly and honestly about his personal life and his long and illustrious career in rugby, before signing copies of his autobiography *Pride and Passion*.

Keeping Faith

On November 27, novelist and screenwriter Matthew Hall spoke about the TV phenomenon *Keeping Faith* and his popular 'Coroner' series of novels with bookshop owner Mel Griffin.

Matt was joined on stage for the Q&A by *Keeping Faith* cast members Alex Harries, Aneirin Hughes and Penarth's own Suzanne Packer.

Over the last year Griffin Books has welcomed a whole host of big-name writers to Penarth, including David Nicholls, Victoria Hislop, Chris Riddell, Elly Griffiths, Ann Cleeves, David Nott, Tess Gerritsen, Clare Mackintosh, and not forgetting Welsh sporting hero Sam Warburton; while also giving a platform to emerging talent and local authors such as: Ruth Morgan, Laura Kemp, DK Fields, Adrian Goldsworthy, Dr Matt Morgan, Sam Hurcom and Vanessa Savage to name only a few.

The 2020 event programme kicks off on Friday, January 17 with Matt Pritchard returning with his second vegan cookbook, *Dirty Vegan: Another Bite*, followed by lunch with crime superstar Sophie Hannah on Tuesday, January 28.

Tickets are now on sale from Griffin Books (call 029 2070 6455) or book online via: *www.ticketsource.co.uk/griffinbooks*.

MG

What's on and where?

Councillors' surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will be holding a surgery at the Old School, Wine Street, Llantwit Major on Saturday, December 21, and Saturday, January 4, from 9.30am until 11.30am.

Residents who have any issue to raise are welcome to attend.

Concert for local Scouts

THE South Wales Male Voice Choir are coming to Stanwell Road Baptist Church, Penarth on Saturday, December 21, at 7pm for a concert in support of two members of the 94th Penarth Scout and Guide group.

Nia and Oscar from Penarth are going to a World Jamboree in Poland next summer. This charity concert has been arranged to help them attend this exciting event The choir will be supported by a lovely soprano from the Welsh National Youth Opera, Ellie Ghent. Tickets available on the door.

New Year's Day auction for Sandville

THERE will be a New Year's Day charity auction in aid of the Sandville Self Help Centre at the Prince of Wales pub, Ton Kenfig.

It all starts at 3pm. Come along and enjoy a fun afternoon with lots of bargains.

AM's Cowbridge surgery

JANE Hutt AM will be holding an advice surgery at Cowbridge Town Hall, Cowbridge High Street, CF71 7DD on Friday, December 20, from 4pm to 5pm.

Councillors' surgery

The Labour councillors for Buttrills, Cadoc, Castleland and Court Wards will be holding their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, December 21, in the small community room, Barry Library, King Square, 10am–11am.

No appointment is necessary.

Solstice event in Barry

A Solstice event will be held in the St Francis Millennium Hall, Barry, on Saturday, December 21, at 7.30pm.

Suggested Donations (between £5 and £10 or what you can afford) in aid of Barry Action for Nature.

The event is hosted by Porthkerry Community Choir and will include guest performers in including Oasis World Choir and Band, and local artist Glyn Pooley will be there to help us welcome in the Solstice.

Past Lives Museum

PAST Lives Museum's owner, curator and archivist Cheryl Hart is thrilled to announce that there will be an extended promotional event for the museum – almost three weeks – beginning on Monday, December 16 and continuing into the new year, closing on Saturday, January 4.

The event will continue to promote our campaign to acquire suitable premises to move the museum into the town centre, and will feature an exhibition 'A Celebration of Christmas Past', plus a collection of antique and vintage children's toys, games, and books from years gone by. You can visit us for this event in Bridgend town centre in the indoor market hall, Rhiw Shopping Centre. For further details see our Facebook page *www.facebook.com/events/560508918063252/* or email *pastlives.history@gmail.com*.

Boxing Day swim

WHITMORE Bay voluntary lifeguards' annual Boxing Day Swim is on December 26 outside the Lifeguard Station, Western Shelter, Barry Island – entering the water at 10am!

PACT meeting

BETTWS PACT public meeting at Bettws Life Centre on Thursday, January 2, at 5pm.

Choir concert at Fonmon

A WINTER Concert with Barry Male Voice Choir at Fonmon Castle, in support of Rhoose Community Library will take place on Sunday, December 29 from 7pm to late.

Tickets £15 to include a hot supper; licensed bar. Tickets available from Rhoose Community Library and Fonmon Castle. Enquiries 01446 710206.

Jack & The Beanstalk, a giant of a pantomime!

BACK by popular demand, it's the return of Gerry Graham Panto to Llantwit Major with this year's show 'Jack & The Beanstalk'.

Gerry Graham pantomimes are always a laugh a minute, with plenty of audience participation and there will be two performances: Friday, January 3 in Llantonian Hall at 3pm and 5.45pm.

Tickets are available from the Town Hall in Llantwit Major at £5 per person with under twos free

Send us your stories, photos, letters, sports reports and details of events to editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

End of an area as final Star Wars movie hits the big screen

DAMON Smith reviews the latest releases. This week: Daisy Ridley, Adam Driver, John Boyega and Oscar Isaac prepare for battle in STAR WARS EPISODE IX: THE RISE OF SKYWALKER... and Oscar-winning director Tom Hooper invites audiences to purr with delight at the Jellicle Ball in the starry musical CATS.

LEFT: Pictured: Joonas Suotamo as Chewbacca, Oscar Isaac as Poe Dameron, BB-8, John Boyega as Finn, Daisy Ridley as Rey and Anthony Daniels as C-3PO

Star Wars Episode IX: The Rise of Skywalker
Released: December 19 (UK & Ireland)

JJ Abrams, director of Star Wars Episode VII: The Force Awakens, soothes nerves after the upheaval of Star Wars Episode VIII: The Last Jedi to helm the concluding chapter of the sci-fi saga, which has been jumping to light speed for more than 40 years.

Following the death of Luke Skywalker (Mark Hamill), Rey (Daisy Ridley) finds herself on a parallel journey of self-discovery to Kylo Ren (Adam Driver), who has assumed the position of Supreme Leader of the First Order after the demise of Snoke (Andy Serkis).

Finn (John Boyega) and courageous X-Wing pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) accompany Rey on her daredevil mission, with support from General Leia Organa (Carrie Fisher) and her loyal supporters.

Meanwhile, a shift in the Force signals the surprise return of Emperor Palpatine aka Darth Sidious (Ian McDiarmid).

Ardent fans of the series can watch all three films in the most recent trilogy back to back starting at 6pm on Wednesday December 18, with Episode IX scheduled to begin at one minute past midnight.

Cats
Released: December 20 (UK & Ireland)

Loosely based on TS Eliot's collection of poems Old Possum's Book Of Practical Cats, the stage production of Cats with music by Andrew Lloyd Webber once held the honour of the longest running musical in London's West End and on Broadway.

Tom Hooper's ambitious film version, adapted for the screen by Lee Hall, employs state-of-the-art digital trickery to add fur to a starry human cast, who perform many of the original songs to choreography by Andy Blankenbuehler, who won the Tony Award for Hamilton.

Cats gather excitedly at the Jellicle Ball to learn who will be granted a precious extra life by Old Deuteronomy (Dame Judi Dench).

Among the hopeful felines are Bustopher Jones (James Corden), Rum Tum Tugger (Jason Derulo), Grizabella (Jennifer Hudson), Gus The Theatre Cat (Sir Ian McKellen), Bombalurina (Taylor Swift), Jennyanydots (Rebel Wilson) and Victoria (Francesca Hayward).

When scheming Macavity (Idris Elba) gatecrashes the ball with malevolent intent, the cats must temporarily put differences aside to restore peace.

Hooper's film includes a new song, Beautiful Ghosts, co-written by Swift and Lloyd Webber.

The Courier
Released: December 20 (UK, selected cinemas)

Olga Kurylenko puts the pedal to the metal in a high-octane action thriller directed by Zackary Adler.

FBI special agent Roberts (Dermot Mulroney) and his team arrest sadistic crime lord Ezekiel Mannings (Gary Oldman) in a church in New York City and prepare to put him behind bars for life with testimony from witness Nick Murch (Amit Shah).

He is the sole witness to Mannings' heinous indiscretions and the entire case hinges on his damning confession.

An unsuspecting motorcycle courier (Kurylenko) is hired to deliver a package to Nick, which supposedly contains the keys to his freedom.

In fact, the parcel contains a bomb intended to kill him.

Marked for death at the hands of Mannings' heavily armed henchmen, the courier joins forces with Nick to keep the star witness alive and ensure justice is served.

LITTLE WOMEN
Released: December 26 (UK & Ireland)

Writer-director Greta Gerwig, who was nominated for two Oscars for the comedy drama Lady Bird, follows that triumph with a chronologically fractured adaptation of Louisa May Allcott's beloved 1868 novel of the same title.

Marmee March (Laura Dern) presides warmly over the family home while her husband (Bob Odenkirk) is away, bravely fighting in the American Civil War.

Her four daughters pursue their dreams: Jo (Saoirse Ronan) wishes to become a writer, Meg (Emma Watson) hopes to become a famous actress, Amy (Florence Pugh) yearns to step out of Jo's shadow so that handsome next-door neighbour Laurie (Timothee Chalamet) might look her way, and Beth (Eliza Scanlen) loves to play the piano.

The siblings' paths diverge courtesy of romantic dalliances and grave sickness, eventually taking Amy to Europe in the company of clucky Aunt March (Meryl Streep).

There, one little woman grows up and finds her powerful voice.

SPIES IN DISGUISE (PG, 102 mins)
Released: December 26 (UK & Ireland)

Troy Quane and Nick Bruno make their directorial debuts with a madcap computer-animated comedy, which imagines the comical repercussions of a malfunctioning spy agency gizmo.

Lance Sterling (Will Smith) is the most famous operative at a government-funded spy agency overseen by Joy Jenkins (Reba McEntire).

He is assigned to capture cybernetic criminal mastermind Killian (Ben Mendelsohn), who has repeatedly evaded capture.

To give himself a competitive edge, Lance drinks an experimental "biodynamics concealment" serum created by MIT genius Walter Beckett (Tom Holland), who works in the agency's gadget department.

Instead of making Lance invisible, the concoction morphs the suave agent into a pigeon.

Walter attempts to convince Lance that a bird is the perfect disguise to get close to Killian and topple his empire.

Consequently, the hapless teenager becomes Lance's "wing man" on a globe-trotting adventure while internal affairs agent Marcy Keppel (Rashida Jones) gives chase to gather intelligence.

Back at base, communications and technology specialists Ears (DJ Khaled) and Eyes (Karen Gillan) offer vital support to ensure the mission is a success.

PLAYING WITH FIRE
Released: December 26 (UK & Ireland)

Lifesavers discover that they are poorly equipped to deal with unexpected disaster - three helpless children - in a coming-of-middle age comedy directed by Andy Fickman.

Captain Jake Carson (John Cena) takes charge of a team of brave smoke jumpers, who parachute into forest fires to tackle blazes from inside the inferno.

His squad includes Mark Rogers (Keegan-Michael Key), Rodrigo Torres (John Leguizamo) and aptly named silent giant Axe (Tyler Mane).

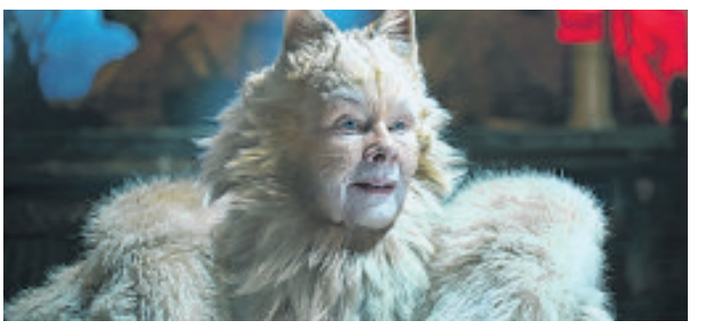
A storm rages around the station and one of the nearby cabins catches fire.

Jake and his men respond to the blaze and inside they discover three terrified siblings - Brynn (Brianna Hildebrand), Will (Christian Convery) and little Zoey (Finley Rose Slater).

As first responders, the smoke jumpers become temporary guardians of the tykes until the weather improves, aided by sassy field biologist Dr Amy Hicks (Judy Greer).

Brynn, Will and Zoey run amok at the fire station, leaving destruction in their wake, just as retiring division commander Richards (Dennis Haysbert) prepares to make a surprise inspection of Jake's station to see if the captain has what it takes to replace him.

ABOVE: Daisy Ridley plays Rey in the new Star Wars film



ABOVE: Dame Judi Dench in Cats.

BELOW: Singer Taylor Swift in Cats

Tabernacle Choir's Christmas concert in Bridgend.

ON December 6, Tabernacle Choir in Bridgend entertained an appreciative audience in their annual Christmas concert.

In the first half their performance of Vivaldi's 'Gloria in D' reflected the joyous nature of the work, its contrasting rhythms and variation in pace. Performers and audience alike enjoyed this performance.

The choir was joined by soloists Sian Cameron and Alison Shone, who delighted listeners with their rendering of the lively duet 'Laudamus Te'.

The second half of the concert comprised a variety of Christmas musical styles in both Welsh and English.

One of the highlights of the second half of the concert was the piano playing of the Kwok sisters. The three sisters, Charlotte (13), and twins Yola and Melody (10) together won the instrumental ensemble competition in the 2017 National Urdd Eisteddfod.

The choir's grateful thanks go to accompanist Glenn Crooks who played both the organ and piano with great skill, and also to our hardworking conductor Matthew Nash. Tabernacle Choir is very fortunate to be led by such talented musicians.

Finally a note to put in your new diaries: the choir's next performance will be on Sunday June 21 when they will be performing Mozart's Coronation Mass with soloists and orchestra.

MR

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg celebrates Christmas Jumper Day!

RECENTLY, the pupils at the all-age Ysgol Bro Morgannwg donned their Christmas jumpers to support 'Save the Children'.

It was a fun-filled festive event, with the school raising over £500 for the charity. Even the teachers got involved!

Everyone looked sparking and happy as they counted down the days until the Christmas break. Nadolig Llawen gan Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg./

HL

Tea dancers' donation to Marie Curie

THE Monday afternoon tea dancers at the Paget Rooms in Penarth held their Christmas Party on December 16, where they gave a donation of £600 to Nerys a representative from the Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth, for all their good works.

Thank you to everyone who donated prizes for the raffle, especially the Principality Building Society and Tesco Express Penarth.

Members of the Monday tea dance would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

Our dance starts back on Monday, January 13, 2pm to 4 pm. All are welcome.

LB

Susan designs Bridgend Town Mayor's Christmas card

A COMPETITION for Carnegie House art classes to design the Bridgend Town Council Mayor's Christmas card, which attracted over 40 entries, has been won by Susan Cates of Pen-y-fai.

The design was inspired by the annual arrival of Santa to Bridgend and his grotto, run by Bridgend Lions in Carnegie House. The original design was completed in pencils and embellished with gems.

The Mayor, Cllr Alan Wathan, was overwhelmed by the number and standard of entries received, which made picking the winner very difficult. However, the Mayor said: "I chose Susan's design as it illustrates perfectly everything about Christmas at Carnegie House."

Susan was taken aback, but delighted when Artist in Residence Claire Hiett announced that her design had been chosen to adorn the Mayor's Christmas card, which will be sent far afield to Bridgend's twin towns in France, Germany and Belgium.

Carnegie House community art classes, led by Claire take place twice a week and the groups participate in national and international projects.

Busy month for volunteers at Porthcawl NCI

IN November, the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI) in Porthcawl dealt with four logged incidents and monitored a further 14, taking us to 83 logged incidents to date.

During the month we were also subject to an unannounced DFS inspection.

This is necessary to ensure we meet the stringent requirements to maintain our Declared Facility Status with UK Coastguard; the rigorous inspection is an annual event and deals with a wide range of issues, from simulated 'Mayday' incidents, to health and safety.

We actually had a real-life incident during the inspection and are pleased to report that we passed the inspection and continue to form part of the UK Search and Rescue infrastructure.

As well as seeking to assist members of the public in times of need, we endeavour to support local wildlife. Indeed, recently we summoned swan rescue to deal with an injured wild bird in distress on Porthcawl pier. A number of seals, dolphins and porpoises can be seen frequently in the waters off Porthcawl and being able to observe them in their natural habitat is one of the pleasures of being a watchkeeper at Porthcawl.

NW

Vale AM visits Barry artist's exhibition at the Wales Millennium Centre

BARRY-BASED artist Carl Chapple is an Artist in Residence to Ballet Cymru, Wales' International Ballet Company, whose exhibition 'Painting Dance' is currently on display in the WMC in Cardiff Bay.

Carl's exhibition has over 60 works featuring the work of Ballet Cymru, including dancers with disabilities.

The exhibition is on display until Sunday, January 5 and is supported by the WMC and Arts Council of Wales.

Jane Hutt, pictured right with Carl Chapple, said: "It was wonderful to be able to visit Carl's exhibition and look at his work, it is great to see a Barry-based artist on display in the Wales Millennium Centre."

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Family Notices

TUCKER
Graham

After a long and courageous fight with cancer. A beloved husband to Marilyn, a cherished father, father-in-law, gramps and great-grandfather, passed away on 9th December 2019.

He will be sadly missed by all who loved him but will live forever in our hearts.

A celebration of his life will be held on Monday, 30th December 2019 at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu may be made to Y Bwthyn Newydd or Velindre Cancer Centre.

KING
Heather Susan Washington

Peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on Sunday, 8th Decmber 2019. Much loved wife of Robert, mother of William, Lynda, and Karen. Loving grandmother, great grandmother, sister and stepmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Friday, 20th December, service and cremation 10am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Salvation Army c/o the funeral director.

PIPPIN
Philip Michael

Philip passed away peacefully, aged 71 years, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on 9th December 2019. Loved husband of Patricia Anne, loved by sister Yvonne; adored father to Carwyn and Alun; grandad to Heulwen, Megan and Ieuan.

Philip will be greatly missed by his family and many friends.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the funeral service at 10.30am, Monday, 30th December 2019 at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend.

Family flowers only. Donations if desired may be made to Cancer Research.

WILLIAMS
Richard Glyndwr (Glyn Gadlys)

Peacefully on Monday, 2nd December 2019, Glyn. Dearly loved husband of Shirley, much loved step father of Anthony, Gwyneth, Alison and Janet and their families and a dear brother, brother-in-law and uncle.

Funeral Monday, 30th December 2019, friends please meet for Service at Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm. No flowers by request, however, donations for Velindre Fundraising and The Stroke Association will be gratefully received by the family.

Enquiries to Gareth Watts, Owen E Jones & Co Ltd, Maesteg. Tel 01656 733167.

COOK
Colin Arthur

Colin A. Cook, aged 72 of Wenvoe, Vale of Glamorgan, died on the 8th December. Husband to Mary, who loved him dearly and who will miss him forever. Colin died at home with some of his family, after suffering for many years with ill health.

Colin was the only son of the late Elsie and Arthur Cook and his late sister Sheila. His niece Helen and her husband, Robert O'Callaghan and his great-niece Phoebe remained close in his heart.

Colin has been a loving and supportive step-parent to all the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was very proud of their successes and supported them in their difficulties.

Colin was an enthusiastic angler for many years, and had many friends and colleagues who shared the same interest. He was a very successful angler, culminating with a Gold medal for being in the angling fresh water team which won the World Championship in Bulgaria. The only time that Wales won the title.

His sense of humour and genuine character was loved by everyone.

The funeral service to celebrate Colin's life will take place at Cardiff and Glamorgan crematorium on Thursday, January 2nd at 11am. Donations in lieu of flowers can be made at the service to Cancer Research or sent to the funeral director. Colin requested that no black should be worn, this is a celebration of Colin's life which he lived to the full.

Resting at Robert Johnson Funeral Directors, 29, Holton Road, Barry. Tel 01446 733844.

KRONDA
Lilian (Lil)

On 30th November 2019, peacefully at Singleton Hospital, Swansea, Lil aged 82 years, formerly of Leicester Road, (Barnard Town). Devoted wife of the late Alec, a dearly loved mother, cherished grandmother and great-grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Funeral Monday, 6th January, service at Langstone Vale Crematorium at 2.30pm.

The family have asked that everyone wear something purple, Lil's favourite colour.

Family flowers only please but donations in Lil's memory may payable to Cancer UK, may be sent c/o Tovey Bros 9/11 Cardiff Road, Newport, NP20 2EH - www.toveybros.co.uk

JESSEY
Bettine Valerie

Peacefully on Tuesday, 10th December 2019 at Llandough Hospital, Bettine passed away. Dearly loved widow of the late John and greatly loved mother of Michael, Lesley, Claudia, Annaliese, Paul and Odette. Much loved mother-in-law, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James and Sons. Funeral will be held at All Saints Church at 12noon on Friday, 3rd January 2020, followed by cremation at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry at 1pm.

Family flowers only, any donations to Dementia and Stroke Association please.

MERRICK
Annette Jane

Sadly announcing the passing of Annette, aged 61 years on 9th December 2019. Annette was an amazing partner, sister and auntie, as well as a devoted friend. She has brought a light to our family's life that will never be forgotten and will be sorely missed. She has been beloved by so many, which has been a great comfort at this time.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until her funeral service at A G. Adams Chapel on Friday, 3rd January 2020 at 11am, followed by an interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family Flowers only, but donations in lieu of flowers may be made at the service, if desired.

PICKETT
Andrew (Andy)

Passed away peacefully on 5th December 2019, aged 69, with his family by his side. Cherished and adored partner to Marian. Loving dad to Darrell, Tara, Katie, Nicola and his beloved fur baby, Roxy. Adored bampi to Joey, Louie, Thomas, Ruby, Charlie, Emily, Poppy and Alexander. Brother to Edwin, Freda and John.

Andy will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

He will live on forever in our hearts.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Friday, 20th December at 1pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only please. Donations if desired, in memory of Andy, may be made to Velindre Cancer Centre at the service.

HELLERMAN
Karl

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Karl on 13th December, after a long illness bravely fought. Devoted husband to Mandy, Hero Dad of Hayley and Amy. An adored bampi of Lily, Poppy, Cohen and Seren. Cherished, youngest son of Margaret and Bernard. A loving brother to Wayne and Gary, special brother-in-law of Andrew.

Karl will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until his service at St Helens RC Church, Barry on Friday, 27th December at 10.45am, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family floral tributes only. Donations may be made at the service to support The British Heart Foundation in memory of Karl.

Go to TheGEM for the latest stories and breaking news.. www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Family Notices

HENSON
Eileen Edith

Peacefully passed away on 6th December 2019. Adored wife of the late Bill, and much loved mother of Lynda. Forever a great gran to Zoë, Michael and Norma; Stephanie and Paul; and Great Gran to Lucus, Maile, Zulah and Esmee.

Celebration of her life on 2nd January 2020, 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only.

ZAMMIT
Caroline Jean

After a long illness on 13th December, 2019, aged 50 years. Loving wife to Vince, cherished daughter to Diane and Peter, special sister to Fran.

Caroline will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare, until the service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Thursday, 2nd January at 10am.

Family flowers only. Donations can be made in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Hospice at the service.

CLEMENTS
Lilian Margaret

Following a sudden but short illness, Lilian passed away peacefully, aged 90 years, at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend on 13th December 2019. Loved wife of Jack, mother of Jacky and Tony, mother-in-law to Clive and Joy. Adored grandmother and great-grandmother.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare until the funeral service at 1pm Monday, 30th December 2019 at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made to Stoke Association, Ty Cenydd, Castle Street, Caerphilly, CF83 1NZ.

Acknowledgements

DAVIES
Raymond Alexander

Thank you to all that attended Ray's funeral on Monday, 2nd December 2019. Your support, messages and cards at this sad time are really appreciated.

Irene, Aly, Janice & Heatha.

HUNTER
Malcolm David

Valmai and family wish to express their sincere thanks to everyone for their support and cards during the last ten months of Malcolm's illness.

BROWNING
Kathleen Mary
(*née* McAuley)

To my Darling sister Kathleen.

Rest in Peace.

God Bless.

Patrick, Hilary, Kathryn & Mark.

In Memory

Craig Orchard
19/07/1984 - 25/12/2015

It's our fourth Christmas without you.

This year you'll be with Nan and John which makes Christmas even harder.

You were the greatest gift that money couldn't buy.

You're so wonderful to think of but so hard to live without.

Love you Always, Mum, Dad, Rhian, Bobo, and all your family and friends .xxx

In Memory

BIRD
Eric Osborne

4.4.1938 - 23.12. 2014

To the world you are one person,
but to one person you are the world.
Always in my heart and on my mind.
Love always, Judy.
xxxx

BLOSS
Vera and Michael

Another Christmas has come around without my darling wife and dear son.

When I think of Christmas past when all the family were together, I shed more tears, but I am so proud to have known and loved them.

Peter

Christmas Memory Wishes
to our dear grandson

Jordan Montgomery

All our love always,
Nan & Gramps Crout.
xxx

WILLIAMS
Karl

What we would give the world, if we could say Merry Christmas to Karl today.

To hear your voice, to see your smile, would be our dearest wish, this Christmas time.

Lots of love and kisses,

Mum, Dad, Kris, Gemma, Curtis and Lacey.

xxx

Also, Christmas wishes to Leighton Batt, and our family that has passed on.

xxx

Birthday Memories

Birthday Memories

JEFFERIES
Diane

28.12.44 - 12.5.17

All my life I will miss you
As the years come and go,
But in my heart you will live forever,
Because I love you so.

All my love, Derek xxx

Birthday Memories

HISCOCK
Lizzy

22-12-23 - 25-05-19

Wonderful memories dearer than gold of a mother whose worth can never be told.

As we whisper 'Happy Birthday' the tears begin to flow, as how much we love and miss you no one will ever know.

The first Christmas without you will be hard to bear but we pray to God that you are there, together with all those we have loved and lost.

Rest in Peace now Mama - Sandra & Keith and family.

To advertise your situations vacant, family notices, birthdays, anniversaries, etc, call Sue on 01446 774484

Christmas Greetings

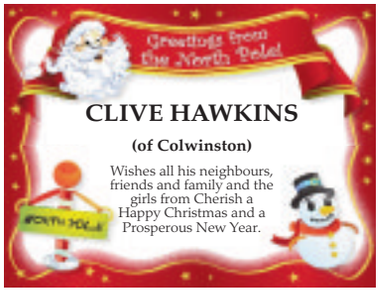
MARILYN HELLYAR

would like to thank all her family, friends, neighbours and fellow bowlers for their love and support through this difficult year.

Hope you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Joyce Taylor

would like to send Seasons Greetings to family, friends and neighbours.



CLIVE HAWKINS

(of Colwinston)

Wishes all his neighbours, friends and family and the girls from Cherish a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Sheila Fifield

wishes all her family and friends a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

JOHNSON
Jeanette (Jean)

Jean and family would like to wish all the staff at College Fields Nursing Home a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and to thank them for their continued kindness and support to Mike and the family.

LILIAN GATT

would like to wish family, friends, neighbours and bowling buddies a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Christmas Greetings

Don & Rita

would like to wish family and friends a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.

COLES
Jan, Jeff & Richard

wish all our family and friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Babs & John Marsh

would like to thank all our family, friends, neighbours and carers for all the help and care given to us both.

Merry Christmas to you all and hope you all have a great Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Love & Best Wishes
Babs & John xxx

CLIFF ARMSTRONG

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to his family, friends and neighbours.

Leonor (Leo) Meredith

would like to wish their family, friends and neighbours a

Wonderful Christmas & a Happy New Year

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Birthdays

Don Goodway
Congratulations Don on your 90th Birthday
on 27th December 2019
With love from,
Glenys & Ron,
Jeanette & Mike and
Christine & Brian xxx

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Karate Club's presentation evening

VALE Karate (dojo at Barry Leisure Centre) held their winter presentation evening to congratulate members on recent successes.

The evening was a memorable occasion, with Barry Leisure Centre's main hall and the balcony overlooking, filled with cheering spectators as more than 80 young students who had progressed at the winter grading, were presented with their new belts and certificates.

All gradings took place in small groups in the dojo on the preceding Sunday, however it was felt that it would be fitting to bring all students together, and allow the whole club to celebrate together.

The evening was also a chance to congratulate the Vale Karate Squad who won 14 gold medals at the recent Welsh Karate League competition, once again topping the medal table; and to say 'well done' to the eight Vale members of the Karate Wales squad who recently returned from the WUKF European Championships for all ages in Denmark, where against all odds each of the eight found a place on the rostrum!

Six members were presented with their Dan grade diplomas.

Jayne Fisher and Ben Evans progressed to first Dan, Doru Grad to third Dan and three long serving Karate-ka, Ritchie Goodchild, Helen Young and Kee Wong were promoted to fourth Dan.

Vale Karate have a full-time dojo at Barry Leisure Centre and will be taking beginners from four years old in January. Call Rob on 07986 872953 for information or email robert@valekarate.com.

Barry and District Clubs League

THE latest results in the Barry and District Clubs leagues are as follows:

Crib Division 1, Cup 1st Round: Romilly Railway beat Moors Boys, Rhoose Social beat West End, Cadoxton Cons beat Wyndham Cons, Liberals bye.

Skittles division 1: Allsorts 6.5, Liberals A 0.5; Rhoosters 3, Slammers 4; Sea View Exiles 3, West End C 4; Barries Boys 5, Cambrian Flyers 2; Barry Town Fc 4, Rhoose Social A 3; Liberals C 5, West End D 2; Rhoose Social C 2, Rugby Club 5; King William XII 6, Rhoose Social B 1.

League points: Sea View Exiles 60.0, West End D 56.5, Rugby Club 50.5, King William XII 48.0, Rhoose Social A 48.0, Rhoose Social C 47.0, Barry Town Fc 46.5, Allsorts 44.5, Liberals C 43.5, Barries Boys 35.5, Slammers 35.0, West End C 34.0, Rhoosters 33.5, Rhoose Social B 27.5, Cambrian Flyers 26.0, Liberals A 22.0.

Snooker division 1: Cadoxton Cons B 3, Liberators 2; Wyndham Cons A 1, Savoy B 4; West End C 3, Penarth Cons A 2; Rhoose Social B 1, Rhoose Social C 4; Harbour B 1, Cadoxton Cons Z 4.

League points: West End C 44, Harbour B 40, Savoy B 37, Penarth Cons A 32, Cadoxton Cons Z 31, Cadoxton Cons B 29, Wyndham Cons A 28, Rhoose Social C 20, Rhoose Social B 16, Penarth Cons B 15, *Liberators 8.

Snooker division 2: Services Social B 2, Market Street C 3; Market Street A 4, Harbour A 1; Savoy C 1, West End A 4; Sully Sports A 4, Cadoxton Cons A 1; Market Street B 4, West End B 1.

League points: Market Street A 35, Market Street C 35, Savoy C 30, West End A 30, Services Social B 29, Harbour A 28, Market Street B 28, Wyndham Cons D 26, Cadoxton Cons A 25, West End B 23, Sully Sports A 21.

* = Points deducted. View all results and league tables at *www.barryleagues.co.uk.*

JW

News from Porthcawl Bridge Club

PORTHCAWL Bridge Club held a splendid Christmas party, catered by Jane Morgan, followed by a competition for the Barrie Robinson Salver.

Results: Saturday, November 23 – first – Dave Nicklin and Roger Draper; second – Dave Lea and Bill Turner. Thursday, November 28 – first – Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams. Saturday, November 30 – first equal – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Pat Roper and Tony Haworth. Thursday December 5 – Christmas Party; first – Dave Nicklin and Roger Draper; second - Chris Rawlings and Teresa Griffiths. Saturday, December 7 – first – Norma and David Newman; second – Trish Saunders and Janet Richards. Thursday, December 12 – First – Tony Haworth and Keith Davison; handicap (Christmas Pudding winners) – David Rance and Alwyn Hill. To contact the club, call our secretary – Trish – 01656 785794 TH

Public Notice

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012
Development that may affect a Conservation Area / Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01318/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Application to remove condition No. 16 - Archaelogy - of 2016/01267/FUL Proposed development of the site for 2 new build, detached houses
Location:/Lleoliad: Station Terrace, East Aberthaw
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth East Aberthaw

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01283/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Removal of existing garage. Construction of wall along rear boundary of property
Location:/Lleoliad: 1, Kymin Terrace, Penarth
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Penarth
Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01339/CAC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Demolition of single storey extension and replacement with a new extension that is partially single storey and partially two storey
Location:/Lleoliad: Lyndale, The Causeway, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Listed Building Consent / Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01297/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Fix new slate plaques to the two entrances along the South Town Wall entrances through to Old Hall Gardens. Plaques are bilingual and read 'Old Hall Gardens'
Location:/Lleoliad: Old Hall Gardens, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II*
Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01312/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Listed Building Consent for the residential conversion of the old rectory and coach house, demolition of out buildings and structures, and associated works including the construction of a new residential coach house, and parking
Location:/Lleoliad: The Old Rectory, 10-12, Old Port Road, Wenvoe
Listed Building:/Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest / Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/Rhif y cais: 2019/01260/HYB
Proposal:/Cynnig: Hybrid planning comprising: full planning permission for the demolition of existing structures and for the construction of a new service road, building slab/apron and associated drainage; and outline planning permission for erection of up to 40,000 sqm GIA air-side operational employment facilities (Class B1 and/or Class B2 and/or Class B8), vehicle parking, servicing and all associatedbuilding and engineering works with all other matters reserved
Location:/Lleoliad: Land between Aston Martin Lagonda and taxiway echo (Keithrow), Bro Tathan Business Park, St. Athan

Application(s) with Environmental Statement / Cais (au) gyda Datganiad Amgylcheddol

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Garwa Quarry, St. Mary Hill, Ruthin.

I give notice that Tarmac Trading Ltd is applying to he Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Variation of Condition 3 - Time Limit

31/12/2019 - Extraction of carbvoniferous limestone, Garwa Farm (Ref 382(Z)1341),09/06/1070, as amended by Deepening of quarry

from 135ft. to 90ft. AOD (Ref 1048), as amended by revised working scheme and end date Condition 3 (Ref. 97/00796/FUL) .

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public

may obtain copies of the environmental statement, at a charge, from Mr. Graham Jenkins, SLR Consulting Limited, Fulmar House, Beignon Close,

Ocean Way, Cardiff. CF24 5PB so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

• The application.
• The plans.
• The environmental statement.
• Other documents submitted with the

application. at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 9 January, 2020.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 9 January 2020 quoting reference 2019/01337/FUL.

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Garwa Quarry, St. Mary Hill, Ruthin

Hysbysir trwy hyn Tarmac Trading Ltd n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Variation of Condition 3 - Time Limit 31/12/2019 - Extraction of carbvoniferous limestone, Garwa Farm (Ref 382(Z)1341), 09/06/1070, as amended by Deepening of quarry from 135ft. to 90ft. AOD (Ref 1048), as amended by revised working scheme and end date Condition 3 (Ref. 97/00796/FUL)

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Gall Aelodau'r cyhoedd gael copïau o'r datganiad amgylcheddol, am dâl, gan Mr Graham Jenkins, SLR Consulting Limited, Fulmar House, Beignon Close, Ocean Way, Caerdydd. CF24 5PB cyhyd â bod stociau'n para.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

• cais;
• cynlluniau;
• datganiad amgylcheddol;
• dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 9 January, 2020.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 9 January 2020 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2019/01337/FUL.

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 8

Proposed development at Ruthin Quarry, St. Mary Hill, Ruthin, Pencoed.

I give notice that Tarmac Trading Ltd is applying to The Vale of Glamorgan Council for Planning Permission to Review of Old Mining Permissions - Resumption of operations and extension of time limit.

The proposal has been submitted with an environmental statement which can be inspected at the address given below. Members of the public may obtain copies of the environmental statement, at a charge, from Mr. Graham Jenkins, SLR Consulting Limited, Fulmar House, Beignon Close,

Ocean Way, Cardiff. CF24 5PB so long as stocks last.

Members of the public may inspect copies of:

• The application.
• The plans.
• The environmental statement.
• Other documents submitted with the application.

at the address given below during all reasonable hours until 9 January, 2020.

Anyone who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Head of Planning and Transportation at the address given below by 9 January 2020 quoting reference 2019/01340/FUL.

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via
http://vogonline.planningregister.co.uk/

Dated / Dyddiedig: 19 December, 2019

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry.
CF63 4RT

HYSBYSIAD O DAN ERTHYGL 8

Datblygiad arfaethedig yn Ruthin Quarry, St. Mary Hill, Ruthin, Pencoed

Hysbysir trwy hyn Tarmac Trading Ltd n gwneud cais i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg am Ganiatâd Cynllunio ar gyfe Review of Old Mining Permissions - Resumption of operations and extension of time limit.

Cafodd y cynnig ei gyflwyno gyda datganiad amgylcheddol sydd ar gael i'w ddarllen yn y cyfeiriad isod. Gall Aelodau'r cyhoedd gael copïau o'r datganiad amgylcheddol, am dâl, gan Mr Graham Jenkins, SLR Consulting Limited, Fulmar House, Beignon Close, Ocean Way, Caerdydd. CF24 5PB cyhyd â bod stociau'n para.

Caiff aelodau o'r cyhoedd hefyd ddarllen copïau o'r:

• cais;
• cynlluniau;
• datganiad amgylcheddol;
• dogfennau eraill a gyflwynwyd gyda'r cais,

yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau rhesymau tan 9 January, 2020.

Dylai unrhyw un sydd am wneud sylwadau ar y cais ysgrifennu at Bennaeth Cynllunio a Chludiant y cyngor (gwelwch y dudalen ar waelod y dudalen) erbyn 9 January 2020 an ddyfynnu'r cyfeirnod 2019/01340/FUL.

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy
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Villagers fight to the end to gain a bonus point

THE 'Villagers' of Dinas Powys welcomed league leaders Treorchy to the Common witha strong wind blowing along the pitch – experienced observers amongst the home crowd considered it to be worth 15 points .

The home team played with the wind behind them in the first half, and opened the scoring within a minute as a break by right wing Jim Wiltshire with an inside pass to Adam Williams saw the centre cross for a try, converted by outside half Ben White.

For the remainder of the first half, Treorchy were under pressure but the home side squandered a couple of scoring chances with the tryline apparently at their mercy. The defence of the 'Zebras' was resolute and well-drilled and the home side were only able to add one further penalty from three attempts to their tally.

To add to their difficulties, on the stroke of half time the visitors kicked a penalty for a 10–3 scoreline.

The Villagers now faced playing into the elements for the second half and Treorchy scored a within a minute of the restart in the right hand corner. The difficult conversion was missed and it was now 10–8.

The game now was being played in the home half of the pitch and resolute tackling by back row Corey Imperatto, Fin Davies and Josh Dunleavy prevented a further score. Time and time again, the home flankers were thwarting the Zebras at the breakdown and it took a further 20 minutes for the visitors to eventually convert a penalty and to take the narrowest of leads by 10–11.

A further penalty was soon added and at 10–14 the home side were on the ropes.The Zebras scored their second try with 10 minutes remaining and with the conversion added the Villagers trailed by 10–21. The home side went in search of a losing bonus point and strong carries by Imperatto , centre Ciaran Driscoll and full-back Sam Middlemiss presented the home side with a rare visit into the opposition half.

With the sands of time running out, centre Adam Williams drew three defenders to stop his powerful burst and threw an inside pass that was taken at full speed by Dunleavy who crashed over in the left corner. The difficult conversion into the wind was added by White and the game finished 21–18.

The emotions were mixed , a last-gasp try to gain a losing bonus point countered by the disappointment of failing to take their first half chances . New head coach Lee Highgate will be aware that key players were unavailable for this game but will demand a more clinical approach for the visit to Barry RfC on December 28 for the next league fixture.

HJ

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg are Welsh Gymnastic Champions

AT a recent Novice Gymnastics Competition, Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg teams were crowned Welsh Champions.

Earlier this month, several teams from the Barry school represented Cardiff and Vale in the Welsh Novice Gymnastic Final Competition. They were successful, as four teams won the gold medal to become champions. The year-7 boys, year-7 girls, the years 8-9 boys and years 8-9 girls teams all won the first prize.

A school spokeswoman said: "What an achievement! Gymnastics must be in the blood of Bro Morgannwg pupils."

The competition, held in Cardiff, was for novice gymnastic teams. Mr Rhys Beynon, PE teacher and coach of the gymnastics team said, 'I'm very proud of this group of young people who have worked extremely hard over recent months.

"The commitment that they have showed towards their sport has been exceptional, and this was evident on the day of the competition. These pupils have grasped the opportunity, have practiced every morning with the team, and have been rewarded with the Welsh Champions title. I'm so proud!"

The school have experienced success at the competition in the past, which goes to show the array of talents at the school, and their clear talent in gymnastics! Llongyfarchiadau i chi gyd!

HL

Tondu Titans triumph as three-quarters create the crucial score

RECENTLY, the Tondu Ladies travelled to Fleur De Lys to conclude the first half of the WRU Womens Merit League.

Playing their 10th game of the season, both teams were determined to get a win. Both teams played a tough physical game.

The home side were quick off the mark with a strong run, putting Tondu back in their own half. Fleur attacked by rushing their strong forwards at the defensive line.

They were stopped by Tondu's flankers, Jade Evans and Abby Bevan, who played out of their skin throughout the match, hardly missing a tackle. This eventually lead to turnover ball and Tondu were back on the attack.

The teams were equally matched, concluding the first half of the game with a 0-0 score. It was clear to see that the defences were very strong.

The second half kicked off with a fast attack from Tondu making a break. With a realign from the backs and with quick hands they gave full back Laura Warren the first and only try of the match; no conversion was made.

Fleur De Lys ended the second half with good possession and the last plays were full of attacking intent, but they were held by the solid defence of Tondu.

At the final whistle, Tondu secured their win of 5-0.

Ending their first half of the season with only three out of 10 losses, the developing Tondu Ladies look forward to the new year ahead. They now take their well-deserved Christmas break and will be back for the second half of the Merit League next year.

Forward of the match: Lowri Radcliffe No 8; back of the match: outside centre Jade Lines.

Final score: Fleur-De-Lys 0, Tondu Titans 5.

JL

Latest results from Barry Ladies Skittles League

THE results in the Barry Ladies Skittles League for December 9 are as follows.

Division 1: Cigar Ladies 267 (A McCarthy 29) v Bakers Dozen 279 (R Heiston 28); Barry Stars 259 (C Lambeth 30) v Allsorts 261 (C Newell 26); Pila Pala 265 (V Evans 27) v Special Angels 227 (C Thomas and L Mountford 23); LaBells 320 (B Williams 25) v Coppers 322 (S Curtis 35); Space Finders 320 (L Jones and M Rees 31) v Cadoxton Con Fillies 330 (K Bennett 33).

Division 2: Breakaways 240 (C Skinner 26) v Persuaders 255 (C Thomas and K Kemp 29); Colcot Ladies 239 (H Edwards 28) v Rhoose Starlights 275 (G Drake 31); Rugby Triers 232 (N Williams 25) v Rollers Coasters 192 (S Thomas 20); Red Admiral 236 (S Hayes 27) v Fallen Angels 244 (V Watkins 25); Etcetera 253 (C Stillman 31) v Witchill Weebies 205 (J Jenkins 26); Clickies 207 (K Watts 27) v Bobby's Girls 198 (N Toogood 25).

Division 3: Hillbillies 318 (M Brinkworth and E Anzani 31) v Livin-on-a-Spare 306 (S Farmer 31); Dolly Mixtures 229 (C Abbott 25) v Witchill Widows 241 (L Spyrou and D Bushen 24); Westenders 257 (S Evans 27) v Vixens 254 (M Marks 32); Liberals 202 (R Keene 26) v Off-the -Rails 242 (L Mackcormack 32); Airways Angels 244 (E Lewis and A Sales 25) v Boozy Birds 234 (C Clements 25).

Division 4: Westender Rollers 154 (R Scott 21) v Withches 220 (V Walters 24); Rebels 213 (M Russell 28) v Bimbo's 211 (M Winder 28); Down Town Girls 222 (L Wyatt 23) v Twikighta 218 (C Thomas 28); Nite Outers 202 (K Blackmore 25) v Optimists 214 (Holland 27).

HB

Bridgend Bridge Club latest news

BRIDGEND Bridge Club member Tony Disley, with partner Adrian Thomas, won the recent National Graded Masters Championship at the head of a very strong field.

The latest results for Bridgend Bridge Club are as follows.

The Presidents Cup competition was played on Friday, December 6: Equal first, Bill Turner and Gill Wybrow, and Irene Tomas and David Newman; third, Tony Disley and John Moore.

On Thursday, December 12: Equal first, Dave Reed and Jim Hume, and David Newman and Joan Ralph; equal third, Eileen Mahoney and Jeff Barnett, and Stuart Davies and Dilys Bowser.

The winners on handicap were David Newman and Joan Ralph.

On Friday, December 13: Equal first, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, and Tony Disley and Steve Burgoyne; third, Emer Disley and Bill Turner.

The winners on handicap were Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

GJ

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17 17 BMW 420 I XDrive Sport Gran Coupe 5dr Automatic, BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 25k, grey, full leather **£17995**

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17 67 BMW 520 D XDrive SE 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW X1 2.0 D XDrive X-Line 5dr Automatic (190bhp), sat nav, 18"alloys, 32k, bronze, full leather **£16995**

16 16 BMW X1 XDrive 25d M Sport 5dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, pdc, 19k, blue, full leather **£19995**

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17 67 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 180 ST-Line 5dr, Ford warranty Dec 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, cruise, 20k, silver **£17495**

19 19 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 2.2 CRDI Premium 5dr Automatic 4WD (7-Seater), Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 11k, silver, full leather **£29995**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 2.0 CRD Premium 4WD 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Dec 2019, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 18k, grey, full leather **£16495**

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18 68 VOLVO XC60 2.0 D4 R-Design 5dr Automatic AWD, Volvo warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 19"alloys, 13k, met red, half-leather **£26995**

16 16 VOLVO XC90 2.0 D5 R-Design 5dr AWD Geartronic Automatic (7-Seater), 20"Alloys, sat nav, grey **£27995**

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17 66 ALFA ROMEO MITO 0.9 TB TwinAir 3dr, Alfa warranty Feb 2020, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 7k, red **£7995**

16 66 AUDI A1 1.6 TDI SE 5dr, dab, privacy glass, red, full leather **£8995**

16 16 AUDI A4 AVANT 2.0 TDI S-Line Estate, sat nav, Bluetooth, cruise, dab, 33k, grey **£14995**

18 67 AUDI A5 2.0 TDI Ultra Sport 5dr, Audi warranty March 2021, sat nav, black alloys, heated seats, blue, full leather **£19495**

17 67 BMW 320 D M Sport Shadow Edition 4dr Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, harman kardon, heated seats, blue, full leather **£16495**

16 66 BMW 330e M Sport 4dr Step Automatic, M sport plus pack, sat nav, 19"alloys, 28k, estoril blue, full leather **£19995**

15 15 BMW 420 D SE 190 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, 18"m sport alloys, black, full leather **£12995**

17 67 BMW 420 D Sport Gran Coupe 5dr (190bhp), BMW warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 20k, black, full leather **£16995**

17 67 BMW 420d [190] M Sport 5dr Gran Coupe Automatic, BMW warranty Oct 2020, 19"alloys, pro media, m sport + pack, Harman kardon, choice, full leather **£18995**

15 65 BMW 520 D [190] SE Estate Automatic, sat nav, privacy glass, white, full oyster leather **£13995**

16 66 BMW 520 D M Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, black, full leather **£14995**

16 66 BMW X1 2.0 SDrive D M Sport 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, black, full leather **£13995**

17 17 CITROEN C4 CACTUS 1.2 PureTech Flair 5dr, sat nav, reverse camera, 15k, silver **£8795**

16 16 DS DS3 1.2 Puretech Elegance 3dr, cruise, dab, 17"black alloys, 17k, yellow **£6995**

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Cult 3dr, pan roof, 23k, green, full leather **£5995**

17 17 FIAT 500X 1.6 E-Torq Pop Star 5dr, sat nav, bluetooth, cruise, 16k, black **£9495**

13 13 FORD FIESTA 1.6 Zetec 5dr Powershift Automatic, city pack, alloys, white **£4995**

16 66 FORD FIESTA 1.0 EcoBoost 140 ST-Line Navigation 5dr, Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, Bluetooth, dab, 7k, black **£10495**

19 69 FORD FOCUS 1.5 EcoBoost 182 ST-Line X 5dr, Ford warranty Oct 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 311 miles in white, half-leather **£19995**

16 66 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI Titanium X Navigation 5dr Powershift Automatic, Ford warranty Jan 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 24k, orange **£11995**

17 17 FORD FOCUS 1.5 TDCI 120 Zetec Edition 5dr, Ford warranty Aril 2020, sat nav, cruise, Bluetooth, choice **£8495**

14 14 FORD FOCUS 1.6 TDCI 115 Navigator 5dr, appearance pack, sat nav, privacy glass, red **£6795**

15 15 FORD KUGA 2.0 TDCI 150 Titanium 5dr, appearance pack, 17"alloys, 29k, red, half-leather **£9995**

17 66 FORD S-MAX 2.0 TDCI Titanium 5dr (7-Seater), Ford warranty Feb 2020, sat nav, cruise,34k, met red **£14995**

16 66 FORD MONDEO 1.5 TDCI Econetic Zetec 5dr, sat nav, Bluetooth, dab, black **£8995**

16 65 FORD MUSTANG 5.0 V8 GT 2dr Coupe, sat nav, xenons, 19"alloys, 13k, red, full leather **£24995**

16 16 HYUNDAI i30 1.6 CRDI BlueDrive Premium 5dr, Hyundai warranty June 2021, sat nav, 27k, white, full leather **£9495**

16 66 HYUNDAI i40 1.7 CRDi Blue Drive Premium 4dr, Hyundai warranty Nov 2021, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, silver, full leather **£11795**

19 69 HYUNDAI KONA 1.6 150kw GDI Hybrid Premium SE 5dr Automatic, Hyundai warranty Oct 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, heated seats, only 464 miles in orange **£22995**

16 66 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.7 CRD BlueDrive SE Nav 5dr, Hyundai warranty March 2022, sat nav, heated seats, reverse camera, 28k, black **£12495**

17 67 HYUNDAI TUCSON 1.6 GDI Blue Drive S 5dr, Hyundai warranty Dec 2022, air-con, Bluetooth, dab, 10k, blue **£12495**

14 14 JAGUAR F-TYPE 3.0 Supercharged V6 S 2dr Coupe Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 20"alloys, 23k, white, full leather **£27995**

16 66 JAGUAR XF 2.0 D R-Sport 4dr Automatic, sat nav, black alloys, privacy glass, Bluetooth, 36k, white, full leather **£17495**

18 18 JEEP COMPASS 1.4 Multiair 140 Limited 5dr, Jeep warranty April 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 12k, silver, full leather **£18495**

17 67 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 Multijet Night Eagle II 5dr, Jeep warranty Nov 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, 29k, white **£12495**

18 68 KIA CEED 1.4 T GDI ISG Blue Edition 5dr, Kia warranty Dec 2025, sat nav, reverse camera, 8k, blue **£15795**

16 66 KIA NIRO 1.6 GDI Hybrid 2 5dr DCT Automatic, Kia warranty Oct 2023, sat nav, reverse camera, 28k, choice **£15995**

16 66 KIA SPORTAGE 1.7 CRD ISG 2 5dr, Kia warranty Feb 2024, sat nav, reverse camera, 20k, choice **£12495**

16 66 LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER EVOQUE 2.0 ED4 SE 5dr, heated seats, 18"alloys, 37k, blue, full leather **£17995**

17 67 LEXUS IS300h Advance 4dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, 17"alloys, cruise, grey, full leather **£17495**

18 68 MAZDA 3 2.2 D SPORT Nav 5dr, Mazda warranty Sept 2021, sat nav, headup display, reverse camera, black, full leather **£14995**

10 10 MAZDA MX-5 1.8 I 20th Anniversary Convertible, CD player, air-con, white **£4995**

16 66 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr, xenons, cruise, 18"alloys, grey **£12995**

18 68 MERCEDES A180 D AMG Line 5dr Automatic (Facelift), Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, dab, 15k, white, half-leather **£19795**

18 18 MERCEDES A200 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty March 2021, sat nav, usb, reverse camera, 16k, silver **£15995**

18 18 MERCEDES C200 Sport Premium 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty May 2021, pan roof, sat nav, heated seats, 15k, choice, full leather **£19495**

18 18 MERCEDES C220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe Automatic, Mercedes Benz warranty until July 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 10k, silver, full leather **£23995**

15 65 MERCEDES C350e Sport Premium Plus 4dr Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, 41k, silver, full leather **£17995**

17 67 MERCEDES CLA220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate Tip Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, privacy glass, cruise, red, half-leather **£17495**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 19"alloys, 13k, choice, half-leather **£20495**

17 17 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 19"alloys, choice, half-leather **£22995**

17 67 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, xenons, 6k, choice **£19995**

18 68 MERCEDES E220 D AMG Line Premium 2dr Convertible 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, 20"alloys, reverse camera, 2k, silver **£28995**

16 66 MINI COOPER 1.5 D 5dr, Mini warranty Dec 2019, air-con, Bluetooth, aux, usb, 25k, white **£8795**

18 68 MINI COOPER 2.0 S II 5dr, Mini warranty Oct 2021, sat nav, apple car play, privacy glass, 15k, black **£13295**

16 66 MINI CLUBMAN 2.0 D 6dr, sat nav, heated seats, blue, half-leather **£11495**

16 66 MINI COUNTRYMAN 2.0 S D 5dr, chilli pack, heated seats, 18"alloys, 32k, blue **£11995**

16 66 NISSAN JUKE 1.5 DCI N-CONNECTA 5 D, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£8995**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.6 DCI 130 N-Connecta 5dr CVT Automatic, sat nav, reverse camera, blue **£11495**

16 66 NISSAN QASHQAI 1.5 DCI N-Connecta 5dr, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera, choice **£10495**

17 67 NISSAN X-TRAIL 1.6 DCI Acenta 5dr Xtronic Automaic (7-Seater), Nissan warranty Oct 2020, pan roof, cruise, 9k, blue **£14995**

16 66 PEUGEOT 108 1.0 Active 5dr, air-con, cruise, aux, 32k, choice ..**£4995**

18 18 PEUGEOT 308 1.2 Pure Tech 130 GT Line 5dr, Peugeot warranty May 2021, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, 22k, blue **£10995**

17 17 PEUGEOT 3008 2.0 BlueHDI 150 GT-Line 5dr, Peugeot warranty June 2020, sat nav, reverse camera, 30k, blue **£16995**

17 17 RENAULT CLIO 0.9 TCE 90 Dynamique S Nav 5dr (facelift), Renault warranty Sept 2020, sat nav, 17"alloys, 11k, blue **£8995**

15 65 RENAULT KADJAR 1.5 DCI Dynamique S Nav 5dr, sat nav, 19"alloys, pdc, choice **£9295**

16 66 RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI SIGNATURE NAV 5dr, sat nav, white, full black leather **£9495**

16 66 SSANGYONG TIVOLI XLV 1.6 D ELX 5dr, Ssangyong warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, reverse camera, 19k, white, full leather **£9995**

17 67 VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 CDTI Elite 5dr, Vauxhall warranty Oct 2020, sat nav, Bluetooth, 20k, silver, full leather **£9795**

16 66 VW GOLF 1.6 TDI 110 Match Edition 5dr, sat nav, heated seats, cruise, blue **£9995**

17 67 VW PASSAT 1.4 TSI GTE Estate DSG Automatic, sat nav, heated seats, 18"alloys, black, half-leather **£18495**

16 66 VW SCIROCCO 2.0 TDi BlueMotion Tech GT 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 18"black alloys, dab, grey, half-leather **£13995**

16 66 VW TIGUAN 2.0 TDi 150 R Line 5dr, pan roof, 20"alloys, sat nav, grey.. ..... **£16995**

16 16 VOLVO V40 2.0 T2 R-Design 5dr, cruise, 17"alloys, 33k, blue ...**£9995**

19 19 VOLVO V40 1.5 T3 R-Design Edition 5dr Automatic, Volvo warranty April 2022, sat nav, pan roof, reverse camera, only 730 miles in black, full leather **£18995**

18 68 VOLVO V60 2.0 D4 (190) Momentum Estate Automatic, Volvo warranty Dec 2021, sat nav, heated seats, 10k, black **£21495**

15 65 FIAT 500 1.2 Lounge 3dr, pan roof, alloys, usb, dab, 23k, choice

£5495 NO BUYERS FEES

19 19 HYUNDAI i30 2.0 T GDI N Performance 5dr, Hyundai warranty April 2024, sat nav, reverse camera,

£21995 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 JEEP RENEGADE 1.6 E-torQ Dawn Of Justice 5dr, sat nav, cruise, black alloys, black

£8995 NO BUYERS FEES

15 65 BMW 520 DSE 4dr Automatic, electric glass sunroof, privacy glass, sat nav, white, full leather

£12795 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES E350 D AMG Line Premium 5dr Estate 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes July 2021, pan roof,

£27495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 BMW 118 D Sport 5dr, sat nav, 17"alloys, comfort pack, 30k, black

£11495 NO BUYERS FEES

16 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TDI GTD 3dr DSG Automatic, sat nav, 19"alloys, heated seats, 27k, grey, full leather

£16995 NO BUYERS FEES

14 64 MERCEDES E250 CDI AMG Line Premium Plus 4dr 7G-Tronic Automatic, pan roof, sat nav, reverse camera,

£14995 NO BUYERS FEES

18 18 MERCEDES A180 D Sport Executive 5dr Automatic, Mercedes warranty Aug 2021, sat nav, cruise, dab, 9k,

£18495 NO BUYERS FEES

13 13 BMW 118 D Sport Plus Edition 2dr Convertible, heated seats, 18"alloys, grey, full leather

£7495 NO BUYERS FEES

18 68 MERCEDES C300 AMG Line Premium 2dr Coupe 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Dec 2021, sat nav,

£27995 NO BUYERS FEES

19 68 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 BOSE Personal Edition 5dr, Nissan warranty Feb 2022, sat nav, reverse camera, 6k,

£10995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 66 VW GOLF 2.0 TSI Blue Motion Tech GTI 5dr Automatic (220bhp), VW warranty March 2020, sat nav,

£17995 NO BUYERS FEES

17 67 Mercedes E220 D AMG LINE 4dr 9G-Tronic Automatic, Mercedes warranty Sep 2020, Sat Nav, Xenons, 6K, Choice

£19995 NO BUYERS FEES

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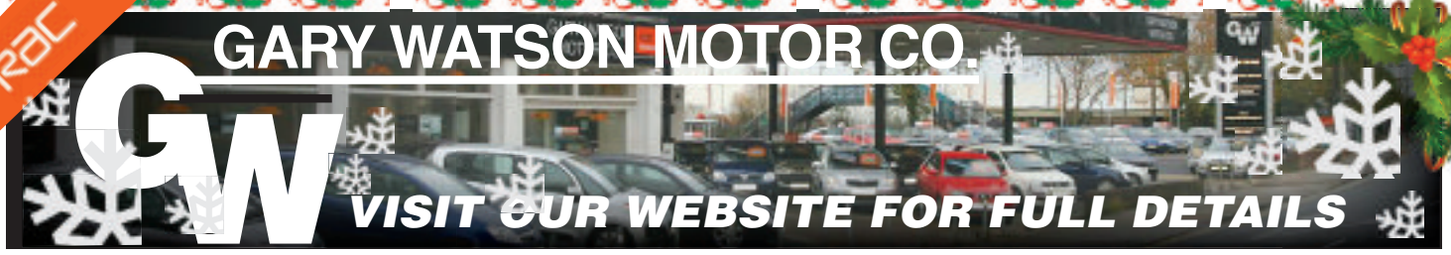

VW GOLF 2.0 TDi GT 3dr Hatchback
White, 78,000 miles with sat nav, etc.
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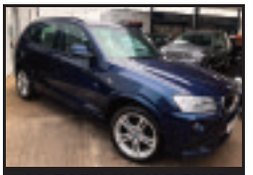
In white, 38,000 miles, top of the range juke at.....
£9,995

54 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA 2 S 3.8 Auto
Silver with leather black leather trim, 74,000 miles
£21,995

12 MERCEDES SLK250 CDi Automatic
Metallic black, 74,00 miles, new shape
£9,995



63 BMW X3 X-DRIVE 2.0 M-SPORT AUTO
In met blue with cream leather, 38,000 miles
£15,995

64 RANGE ROVER 3.0 Diesel HSE Auto white with black roof, 49,000 miles, too many extras to list, fantastic value **£32,995**
54 PORSCHE 911 CARRERA 2 S 3.8 Auto In silver with black leather trim, 74,000 miles **£21,995**
15 VOLKSWAGEN TOUREG V6 R-Line 3.0 TDi Auto In pure white, 61,000 miles, FSH, Pan sunroof, leather heated seats/steering wheel **£18,795**
16 MITSUBISHI OUTLANDER P Hev GX 4H 2.0cc petrol/electric hybrid, heated leather seats, sat nav, FSH, free road tax **£17,495**
07 JAGUAR XKR 4.2 CONVERTIBLE in metallic black with black leather, 51,000 miles **£16,995**
63 BMW X3 X-Drive 2.0D M-Sport Auto In met blue with cream leather, 38,000 miles **£15,995**
15 MERCEDES E220 AMG line 2.1D Auto in cavansite blue, 28,000 miles, leather heated seats, sat nav etc **£15,495**
63 JAGUAR XF 3.0TDv6 Portfol Automatic Estate In met black, 55,000 miles, high spec **£14,995**
64 BMW 520D M-SPORT Auto in white with black leather, 70,000 miles, sat nav etc **£12,995**
13 LAND ROVER FREELANDER XS 2.2D SD4 Auto in orkney grey, 48,000 miles, black heated leather seats, sat nav, FSH **£11,995**
63 BMW320D X DRIVE M SPORT In black, 54,000 miles, heated leather seats, FSH **£11,995**
15 KIA OPTIMA 3 ECO-DYNA 1.7 CRDi 5dr in silver, 26,000 miles, pan sunroof, huge spec **£10,995**
12 LEXUS CT 200H SE-L Automatic Hybrid Cewrulean blue with cream leather, 45,000 miles, 1 owner .....**Reduced to £9,995**
64 MERCEDES B180 SE CDi 1461cc Automatic In met grey, 39,000 miles, leather, sat nav, Reverse cam **£9,995**
65 NISSAN JUKE 1.6 RS DIG-T NISMO in white, 38,000 miles, top of the range Juke at **£9,995**
12 MERCEDES SLK250 CDi AUTOMATIC in met black, 74,000 miles, new shape .....**Reduced by £500 to £9,995**
54 AUDI RS6 AVANT QUATTRO 4.2 V8 Auto in met silver with black leather, 100,000 miles, classic at **£9,995**
64 BMW 118 Diesel M-Sport 5dr in estoric blue, 67,000 miles, £30 road tax, nice example **£9,495**
64 VW PASSAT CC Bluemotion Technology 2.0 TDi Coupe in silver, 37,000 miles, sat nav etc **£9,695**
14 SKODA SUPERB 2.0 TDi Elegance CR (170) in Cappuccino beige, 48,000 miles, Sat Nav, leather seats .....**Reduced £8,995**
17 FORD B-MAX 1.5 Diesel Zetec Navigator in black, 16,000 miles, practical with low running costs **£8,995**
15 VW JETTA 1.4TSi SE in met blue, 25,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,995**
13 VW GOLF 2.0 TDi GT 3dr in white, 78,000 miles with Sat Nav, fantastic MPG, £20 road tax .....**Reduced to £7,995**
66 SKODA RAPID 1.2 SE SPACEBACK Automatic In race blue, 13,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,695**
14 KIA CARENS 2 1.7 CRDi Automatic 7 seater In blue, 43,000 miles, bluetooth, PS **£8,695**
14 MERCEDES B180 SE 1.5 CDi Eco In black, 35,000 miles, low running costs.....**£8,695**
65 HYUNDAI i20 PREMIUM MPT 1.4 Automatic in white, 41,000 miles, nice example .....**Reduced to £7,995**
65 MAZDA 6 SE-L NAV 2.2 Diesel Estate in soul red, 69,000 miles, 1 owner **£8,495**
14 SKODA YETI 2.0TDi CR 4x4 in black, 58,000 miles, very practical **£7,995**
14 BMW 120D SE 5-Dr In Red, 60,000 miles, fantastic MPG + low road tax .....**Reduced to £7,495**

65MAZDA 3 SPORT 2.2 Diesel 5dr in met blue, 88,000 miles, host of extras ..... **Reduced by £1000 to £6,995**
66 FORD FIESTA 1.2 ZETEC white edition 3dr, 18,000 miles, blue roof, etc.....**£7,995**
65 VAUXHALL MOKKA Exclusive Turbo S/S 1.4cc in electric blue, 44,000 miles, 1 owner, P/S **£7,995**
63 RENAULT CLIO 1.2 GT LINE AUTOMATIC in met black, 36,000 miles, sat nav etc **£7,695**
66 FIAT 500 POP 1.2 Automatic in mint green, 14,000 miles, 1 owner.....**£7,495**
62 AUDI A1 S-LINE 1.6 TDi 3dr in black, 59,000 miles, low running costs **£7,495**
10 MERCEDES SLK 200k Automatic black with black leather, 85,000 convertible .....**Reduced to £7,495**
17 FORD FIESTA ZETEC 1.2cc in moondust silver, 21,000 miles, 1 owner, sat nav, DAB radio etc.....**£7,495**
16 FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2 in white, 9,000 miles, glass roof, sat nav **£7,495**
15 RENAULT CAPTUR M NAV 1.5 Diesel in cream, 51,000 miles, sat nav, FSH.....**£7,495**
16 CITROEN C4 Flair Blue 1.6 HDi 5dr in black, 24,000 miles, 1 owner .....**Reduced to £6,995**
65 CITROEN C4 CACTUS BLUE HDi FEEL 1.6D In red, 37,000 miles, DAB radio, free road tax .....**Reduced to £6,995**

57 MERCEDES SLK 350 AUTO in black with grey leather, heated seats, 59,000 miles, with extras **£6,995**
14 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY C20 STARTLINE 1.6 TDi In red, 28,000 miles, rear sliding door, superb condition **£6,995**
14 KIA CEED 2 1.6 ECODYNAMICS in met grey, 36,000 miles **£6,995**
66 KIA PICANTO 1.0 SE 5dr in black, 26,000 miles, 1 owner.....**£6,495**
65 SEAT IBIZA 14 TOCA 3dr in red, 16,000 miles, with Sat Nav **£6,495**
64 VW POLO 1.4 TDi SE 5dr in white, 59,000 miles, fantastic MPG **£6,495**
63 VW POLO 1.2 MATCH 5de in red, 41,000 miles, alloys, A/C etc.....**£6,495**
15 HYUNDAI i10 Premium 5dr in met blue, 9,000 miles, 1 owner.....**£6,495**
64 SKODA ROOMSTER 1.2 BLACK EDITION, 41,000 miles, with glass roof, sat nav **£6,795**
64 VAUXHALL CORSA LTD EDITION 1.4cc In red, 33,000 miles, DAB radio, bluetooth **£5,995**
16 DACIA STEPWAY 1.5 Diesel Laurette in black, 50,000 miles, 1 owner, sat nav etc ..... **Reduced to £5,995**
16 FIAT 500 POP 1.2 in white, 22,00 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**
12 KIA SPORTAGE CRDi KX-2 AWD in bronze 112,000 miles with leather and pan-roof **£5,995**
10 MINI COOPER S 1.6 CONVERTABLE in cream white with chilli pack, leather etc, low mileage, high spec.....**£5,995**
63 HYUNDAI IX20 Active 1.6cc Automatic in ice blue, 59,000 miles, FSH, alloys, P/S **£5,995**
14 FIAT 500 L 1.2 Diesel Automatic Pop Star Multijet in met grey, 39,000 miles **£5,495**
61 SSANGYONG KORANDO 2.0 EX Diesel Automatic, 63,000 miles, met orange, 4x4.....**Reduced by £500 £5,495**
11 SEAT LEON 2.0 TDi FR Auto 5dr in track grey, 76,000 miles .... **Reduced by £500 to £5,495**
58 AUDI A4 2.0 TSi 211 EDITION In metallic blue, 80,000 miles, 2 owners **£5,495**
14 SKODA RAPID SPACEBACK 1.6 TDI Elegance In Race blue, 67,000 miles, pan roof, sat nav **£5,495**
64 VW POLO 1.4 TDi SE 3dr In met grey, 83,000 miles, low running costs **£5,495**
64 HYUNDAI i20 Classic 1.2 5dr In red, 35,000 miles, £30 road tax **£4,995**
63 PEUGEOT 208 ALL;URE 1.4 HDi In white, 52,000 miles, DAB radio, bluetooth, climate **£4,995**
63 RENAULT CLIO 1.5 DCi Energy 5dr in yellow, 62,000 miles, Free road tax.....**£4,995**
15 RENAULT TWINGO 900cc Dynamique S 5dr in black, 58,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£4,995**
14 NISSAN NOTE Visia 1.2cc in black, 41,000 miles, bluetooth, low road tax.....**£4,995**
14 CITROEN DS3 D-STYLE + E 1.6 HDi white with black roof, 59,000 miles, alloys, A/C **£4,995**
13 FIAT 500 1.2 POP CONVERTABLE in yellow, 48,000 miles, £30 road tax.....**£4,995**
11 MINI ONE 1.6 in ice baby blue, 47,000 miles, very nice example at **£4,695**
60 MERCEDES CLC 200 CDi Sport Auto in white, 87,000 miles **£4,495**
58 SUZUKI SWIFT 1.5 GLX Automatic in silver, 25,000 miles, from new **£4,295**
13 MITSUBISHI MIRAGE 3 1.2 5dr In black, 43,000 miles, free road tax .....**Reduced to £3,995**
63 CITROEN C1 Platinum 1.0cc in grey, 55,000 miles, bluetooth, spoiler, free road tax.....**£3,995**
12 FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2cc In white, 52,000 miles, pan roof, bluetooth **£3,995**
13 KIA PICANTO 1.0 CITY3dr In silver, 71,000 miles, 1 owner, free road tax **£3,695**
60 HYUNDAI i10 COMFORT 1.2 5dr in met blue, 42,000 miles low insurance **£2,995**

14 VOLKSWAGEN CADDY C20 STARTLINE 1.6 TDi
In red, 28,000 miles, rear sliding door, superb condition
£6,995

64 RANGE ROVER 3.0 DIESEL HSE Auto
49,000 miles, too many extras to list, fantastic value
£32,995

12 FIAT 500 LOUNGE 1.2cc
In white, 52,000 miles, pan roof, bluetooth
£3,995

65 VAUXHALL MOKKA EXCLUSIVE TURBO 1.4cc
In electric blue, 44,000 miles, 1 owner, P/S
£7,995

64 BMW 520D M-SPORT Auto
in white with black leather, 70,000 miles, sat nav etc
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On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

THERE were more winners for Vale trainers Evan Williams and Tim Vaughan last week.

On Thursday, December 12, Evan Williams's *Annsam*, ridden by stable jockey Adam Wedge, landed the handicap hurdle at odds of 14-1 when beating *Le Ligerien* by a length.

Later in the day, Debra Hamer's *Layerthorpe,* who went off the 13-8 favourite, won the three miles handicap hurdle under Welsh rider Ben Jones when getting home by a short head from *We'llcwhathappens*.

The following day, Jones was successful on *Doc Penfro* at Bangor while at Doncaster, Tim Vaughan's top weighted *Copper Gone West* ridden by the talented Charlie Price, took the mares' handicap hurdle by one-and-a-half lengths from *Coded Message*.

Evan Williams says that his grey *Silver Streak* is all set to run in the Ladbrokes Christmas Hurdle at Kempton Park on Boxing Day. After finishing third in the recent Fighting Fifth Hurdle, Evan said of his star performer: "We'll keep an eye on the Christmas Hurdle now.''

BRIAN LEE

The latest news from Barry Chess Club

AS we head inexorably to Christmas chess matches still continue.

This week saw the final matches in division 3 this year, and also a match for the Stauntons in division 4

The Quarks entertained the Pontypridd Kites in the third division. We were able to put out a strong team against one of the teams struggling to avoid relegation. Wins for Dave Parsons, Ken Hannah, John Stephenson, plus a bye, and a draw for Ian Abraham, gave the Quarks our biggest victory so far, earning 4.5 points.

This victory pushes the Quarks above the Barry Gambits into fourth place just 1.5 points behind Rhondda A in the final promotion spot. The Gambits are just a point further back in fifth place. Both of our teams seem to be safe from relegation but promotion remains a slim possibility.

In division 4 the Stauntons travelled to Whitchurch to play the North Cardiff Penguins. The Penguins started the season poorly, losing their first two matches without earning a point. Since then they have won three consecutive matches and now sit in mid table.

The Stauntons managed a good win for Dave Mahoney on board 1 and a maiden victory for Steve Maguire on board 5. Unfortunately we couldn't replicate this form on the middle boards, losing the match 3 - 2.

The Stauntons remain at the bottom of the table but our results have improved and a match win can't be far away.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7:30 pm most Mondays at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but it is better to contact one of the club members through the website first so that we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival. For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com

PJ

Penarth Bridge Club results

RESULTS at Penarth Bridge Club last week were:

Tuesday, 1st, Nalini and Tim Barbsy (69.4%); 2nd Anne Williams and Avril Collins (56.9) ; 3rd Cyrus and Carmel Hughes (54.9).

Friday, 1st N/S Joy Secular & Mike Downey (62.1); 2nd Rod Hudson & Carol Cochlin (55); 3rd Avril Collins & Vivian Liles (47.9); 1st E/W Tony Campbell & Trish Tracey (53.8); 2nd equal Pat Sullivan & Hugh Simmonds (57.9) and Peter Millar and Mike Best. The club meets Tuesdays and Fridays at Trinity Church Hall, CF64 3EN.

A good win for 'ring rusty' Bridgend Athletic Youth over Aberavon Green Stars

BRIDGEND Athletic Youth maintained their unbeaten record in the league with another bonus point 26–7 victory over a plucky Aberavon Green Stars team.

The win took them to the top of their Ospreys Division C East league.

From the kickoff the Ath dominated every aspect of the game, but they looked ring rusty and spurned numerous chances. The one shining light in the first half was the performance of Joe Watts at full back, who constantly looked a threat in attack and was a giant in defence.

It took a while to get going but eventually, outside half Rhys Williams took the ball to the line, drawing the defence before feeding centre Danny Osarigie who skipped through for the first try, converted by Williams.

It wasn't long before Osarigie again crossed the line following a great run by wing Tom Davies, Williams adding the conversion.

A short while later Osarigie fed fellow centre Tom Florence, who powered over the line, supported by Osarigie and Watts, again converted by Williams. This gave the Athletic a 21–0 half time lead.

The second half started with the best try of the day. Green Stars attempted to run the ball from the 22 but second row Morgan Bennett produced a thunderous tackle which caused the ball to be dislodged.

Scrum half Tom Lewis fed Tom Florence who straightened the line before feeding Tom Reed, who did the same before feeding Joe Watts, who flew over in the corner, unfortunately injuring his arm on the process. The conversion was narrowly missed by Williams.

The Ath continued to dominate with centre Tom Reed looking a massive threat and flankers Sion Vigus and Ryan Neagle absolutely outstanding in every aspect. Late on, the Green Stars' outside half intercepted a potential try-scoring pass from Tom Florence to race away to score a consolation try under the posts, which he converted himself.

The Ath continued to dominate the game however, spurning numerous chances and neither team scored any more points, with the Athletic running out 26–7 victors.

At the end of the day it was another bonus point win. However, the Ath will have to pick up their game and be far more clinical in the coming weeks if they wish to finish the league as champions. A positive for the coaches is that the boys still managed a bonus point win, despite not playing anywhere near their best.

AB

Evan is named trainer of the year at season-ending event

On and Off the Turf with Brian Lee

Milton Bradley with Richard Johnson and Alex James (representing the sponsors of the award, Dragon TV and Film Studios).

LLANCARFAN'S Evan Williams is the Welsh trainer of the year.

At the recent Welsh Horse Racing Awards at Chepstow Racecourse, Williams took the Trainer of the Year category, sponsored by Gain Equine Nutrition.

His horses earned more than £660,000 prize money, mainly due to the exploits of his grey *Silver Streak* in the Champion Hurdle, Welsh Champion Hurdle and other big races.

The leading hurdler award, sponsored by Ffloyds Turfcare, Peter Villars and ICL also went to *Silver Streak*.

Ogmore-by-the Sea's Christian Williams, like his namesake Evan a former point-to-point rider, took the leading chaser category, sponsored by NAF, with his *Potters Corner* which won the Midlands Grand National.

Debra Hamer who hails from the Bridgend area saw her owners of *Tobefair*, the Down The Quay Club, presented with the 'owner of the year award' sponsored by the ROA.

Debra trains *Tobefair,* who has won two big Cheltenham staying hurdle handicaps and who suffered a narrow defeat when carrying top weight in the Pertemps Final.

Ben Jones, who is having a cracking season, won the Rising Star category, sponsored by Great British Racing, and Breeder of the Year was won by Llety Farms.

Jackie Coonick, a stable hand at Bernard Llewellyn's Bargoed yard, won the Stable Staff award, sponsored by Arena Racing Company.

David Probert took the Jockey of the Year award, sponsored by Cotts Equine and Chepstow's Milton Bradley, who has been training winners for more years than he probably cares to remember, took the Lifetime Achievement award. He received a standing ovation from all the 200 people in the audience. This award was sponsored by Dragon TV and Film Studios.

I remember interviewing Milton after one of his point-to-pointers had won at Penlyne Racecourse in the 1960s and he has come a long way since then, training winners on the flat, over hurdles and in steeplechases.

Brian Lee

Cottrell Park winners' night

Tina Morgan with Jennifer Thomas.

EARLIER this month, the Cottrell ladies gathered for their Christmas lunch.

There was a nine hole competition first, with only a few brave souls taking part in the inclement weather. This was won by Tessa Matthews, Lorraine Pointon-Bell and Regina Drew.

The lunch was well attended and the food and service excellent. Each lady had a gift from the Ladies' captain, Tina Morgan. After lunch the presentation of prizes took place.

Tina congratulated Jan Cosby who had a hole in one earlier in the year. Helen Evans, the vice captain, mentioned all the ladies who had represented Cottrell Park in various competitions and thanked them for their efforts. She announced that vice captain next year will be Judith Jessop.

Tina presented the prizes: there were 16 Stableford winners and eight medal winners.

The main competitions were won by: WG Medal, Dragon Brooch and Summer Eclectic Button – *Jennifer Thomas*.

Cup of Achievement and Summer Eclectic Mackintosh, Tessa Matthews. Summer League, *Rusty Fone*. Nine Hole Golfer of the year, *Patricia Davies*. Llanfair Trophy, *Eleanor Lewis.* Pencarrig Cup, *Judith Jessop*. Aberthin Trophy and the Birdie tree, *Helen Evans*. Super 70s Trophy and Par Competition, *Janet Cosby* and the Grandmother's Cup, *Jeannette Jones*.

There were many lovely raffle prizes and a special raffle for a beautiful decorated large Christmas cake, made by Regina Drew and won by Lyn German.

The pretty Christmas flower decorations on the tables made by Cheryl Hopkins were won by a member on each table. Tina thanked the staff and all her helpers for making it a special day and wished everyone a happy Christmas.

CB

Porthcawl Bridge Club latest news

RECENTLY, the club entered into the Christmas spirit, with a splendid Christmas party, catered by Jane Morgan followed by a competition for the Barrie Robinson salver (in memory of our previous club chairman), and won by Dave and Roger.

Other results from the club are:

November 23: first, Dave Nicklin and Roger Draper; Dave Lea and Bill Turner.

November 28: first, Keith Davison and Tony Haworth; second – Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

November 30: first equal, Vida Halford and Glyn Williams; Pat Roper and Tony Haworth.

December 5 Christmas Party: first, Dave Nicklin and Roger Draper; second, Chris Rawlings and Teresa Griffiths.

The club meets twice a week at the Awel-y-Mor centre, Thursdays 6.45pm – 9.45pm and Saturdays, 3.15pm - 6.15pm; visitors welcome at any time. To contact the club, call secretary Trish – 01656 785794.

TH

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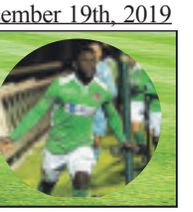

Surf lifesaving club's presentation evening

ABOVE: The Surf Lifesaving Club's Juniors.

BELOW: Cian Davies and Taran Downton receive the double act trophies.

FOLLOWING on from the excellent achievements of Llantwit Major Surf Lifesaving Club's Nippers team the Juniors, Seniors and Masters also enjoyed an equally rewarding time at the club's presentation evening.

Gethin Edwards and Jon Foster presented the achievements, results, awards and many other success stories the club have enjoyed over the year. From the early 2019 Mini-League and Stillwater pool championships to the summer ocean and beach competitions and the many lifeguard qualifications members have achieved, it has been another very busy year for everyone involved.

Jon went on to thank all of those who help: Sian Davies for running the weekly swim training sessions, Alex Bourner, Claire 'Trev' and Phil Thomas, Heddus Davies, Tamara Pitt, Dai Thomas and others for all of their help on the beach and at the pool.

Gethin Edwards and Andrew McDonagh for coaching ski training throughout the year. Wendy Olsen for coordinating the surf ski training sessions. Dai Thomas for getting the juniors and adult members through their lifeguard qualifications and many thanks to Sarah Thomas and Wendy Olsen, who support the club in so many ways; and thanks to all of the parents who help with fundraising and other duties.

Lastly, thanks to Morgan Edwards who has been the club 'junior captain' for the year and has done a great job in supporting that section and club as a whole.

Well done to all of the members this year who gained their lifeguard NVBLQ and Level 2 qualifications and for the many hours put in volunteering with beach patrols over the spring and summer months.

Congratulations also to Rianna Morgan and Cian Davies who were selected to join the Welsh development training squad following their excellent results from the Welsh Championships in the year.

On to the awards and trophies, presented to the following members for their hard work at training, competition or supporting the club with fundraising and qualification work.

Best Junior Newcomer – *Jacob Lee;* Girls' Double Act Partnership Award – *Gracie Heywood and Eliza Edwards*; Boys' Double Act/Partnership Award – *Cian Davies and Taran Downton*; Junior Competition Award – *Izzy Thomas*; Most committed Junior – *Mollie Bourner*; Ski paddler of the Year – *Tom Edwards*; Croyde Rock award for Most Progressive Junior – *Evan Harris;* Kate Griffiths Memorial bowl – Junior Girl superstar and Junior Captain for 2020 – *Emma Craythorne*; Masters Female Award – *Ceril Rhys-Dillon*; Masters Male Award and Chairman's Award – *Andrew McDonagh*; Ruby Trophy – *Dewi Edwards*; Rose Bowl – *Debbie Lewis*.

Thanks/diolch yn fawr to everyone who has made 2019 another enjoyable, successful and exciting year.

For further information about Llantwit Major SLSC go to the club website page at *www.llantwitmajorslsc.org.uk*

JF

Llantwit's dip in form continues

LLANTWIT Major travelled to STM Sports and were hoping to complete the double over their opponents, having won at home earlier in the season.

However, it was not to be as Llantwit went down to a 3–0 defeat and they have now only gained three points from the last six league games.

Llantwit absorbed the early pressure. Their opponents dominated possession as they usually do on their 3G surface but, despite all their possession, they did not create any real goal-scoring opportunities.

It was Llantwit who nearly opened the scoring in the 17th minute when a free kick into the six-yard area saw Llantwit defender Sean Williams just head wide. In the 30th minute the STM Sports keeper saved well from a Nathan Jones shot from an acute angle.

Llantwit had restricted their opponents from scoring but let themselves down on the stroke of half time when they made the cardinal sin of sliding into a tackle in their own goal area. An STM Sports player went down and a penalty was awarded. It was converted to give STM Sports a 1–0 interval lead.

Llantwit were unlucky not to score in the 60th minute when the STM keeper made a tremendous save from a Sean Williams header that was heading into the corner of the net, but the keeper managed to push the ball away for a corner. That save was the turning point, as only a matter of a few minutes later STM broke away down the flank and their striker cut in and his right-footed shot into the corner of the net beat Llantwit keeper Jack Lansdown to make it 2-0.

Llantwit's fate was finally sealed in the 75th minute when STM scored their third. From a corner the ball was headed home by an unmarked STM player from six yards out.

This was another disappointing defeat for Llantwit and they now in 12th position in the League and perilously close to the relegation places. The next home game is on Saturday, December 21 when they welcome Pontypridd Town to Windmill Lane in the JD Cymru South Championship, kick off 2pm.

Llantwit Major: *Jack Lansdown, Jamie Miller, Sean Williams, Lee Jones, Kyran Gardner, Jonathan Fletcher (capt), Jonathan Butler (Harry Davies 72), Mike Hartley, Lewis James (Rob Jones 55), Nathan Jones (Ben Cripps 68), Josh Morgan: Subs not used: Jake Sutch, Glyn Davies:*

Llantwit Major AFC – weekly lottery draw, December 15. Numbers: 8, 9, 14 & 24: There were no winners and next week's jackpot (December 22) has increased to £1,680.

DJ

Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, December 10, a full programme of league matches was played in the Cowbridge Darts League.

It was a busy evening at the Edmondes Arms. On one board the Edmondes B played the Edmondes A, winning 15-7.

On the other board the Edmondes C were playing the Hairy Farmers. The Hairy Farmers won this match 14-7.

In the other games, the Highwayman Inn beat the Farmers Arms 14-9 and the Victoria Inn beat the Town Hall Criers 14-7.

The Red Lion Inn had a bye.

Present league standings, after eight weeks, are: Edmondes B (103 points), Highwayman Inn (93), Victoria Inn (88), Farmers Arms (73), Hairy Farmers (69), Edmondes C (64), Edmondes A (60), Town Hall Criers (57) and Red Lion Inn (46).

The darts will now take a break over the Christmas and New Year holidays. The next programme of league matches will be played on Tuesday, January 14, when the Highwayman Inn hosts the Town Hall Criers, the Edmondes B hosts the Victoria Inn, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Farmers Arms and the Red Lion Inn hosts the Edmondes A. The Edmondes C have a bye.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: *www.darts.apsn.co.uk.*

PJT

Latest results from Bridge clubs

RECENT results at Cowbridge Old Hall Bridge Club are as follows.

For the week of December 4: 1st John Beard and Liam Sheridan – 69.17 per cent; 2nd John Raymond and Allan Lewis. – 61.67; 3rd June Greaves and Ann Harris – 56.57; 4th Ann Miller and Judith Nunn – 55.00; 5th Pat Swayne and Gerwyn Watkins – 54.58.

For the week of December 11: 1st Ann Miller and Judith Nunn – 68.40; 2nd John Beard and Liam Sheridan – 60.07; 3rd John Raymond and Allan Lewis – 59.90; 4th Chris Impey and Colin Lewis – 55.90; 5th Mary Wallis and Myrtle Hansard – 53.13.

Thank you to everyone who attends the bridge sessions, it's a lovely group where everyone is supportive We are closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day but back in full swing on Wednesday, January 8, from 6.45pm at Old Hall. Visitors are always welcome and a Happy Christmas to all Bridge players in the Vale.

CM

Llantonian Bridge Club

THE latest results from Llantonian Bridge Club are as follows:

December 2: 1st, Dot Williams and Meryl Phillips; 2nd, Angela Hawkins and Ros Martin-Jones; 3rd, Allan Evans and Cathy Mangles.

December 9: 1st, Caroline Leonard and Meryl Phillips; 2nd, Colin Hawkins and Alan Beckwith; 3rd, David Simpson and Diana Trickey.